



# ***The Resonator***

**Official Newsletter of The Fair Lawn (NJ) Amateur Radio Club**

**Volume 6, Number 4**

**www.FairLawnARC.org**

**April 2021**

## **From The President**

Dear FLARC Family,

I wanted to start by wishing you a Happy Easter and Happy Passover for those that celebrate these holidays.

FLARC continues to be active and alive, and we thank all of you that make it possible. We try to have as many things available so that you continue to be busy and enjoy the different alternatives ham radio has to offer.

Remember we are bringing you "Pop up Tuesdays," something for those that may want to pass by and say hi to other club members. If you can, it will be nice to see you and say hello.

This month we will be celebrating World Amateur Radio Day on the 18th. Noel, W2MSA is planning to set up POTA (Parks on the Air) Stations in neighboring parks as an event for FLARC. Keep an eye on The Resonator for more information, and also on our other social media platforms and

Continued on page 8.

## **New Member Profile**

NAME: John Eugene "Gene" Margroff

CALL: **KD2VNI**

### **What do you do/what did you do for a living?**

I currently work in Retail Management, for Stop and Shop Companies currently stationed in Lyndhurst NJ. Have worked in the supermarket industry for 42 years.

### **How did you get interested in ham radio?**

I have always had an interest in radio, music and electronics in general. I met Nomar NP4H and Bruce NJ2BK almost 20 years ago and upon our several conversations, I asked the magic question; How do I become a "ham"?

### **What parts of the hobby most interest you?**

I guess the technical aspects of it but have been intrigued by the ability to communicate by these means and, in some cases, when other means are not available. The different opportunities available in Ham Radio to "reach out" are plenty. Right now, I'm starting on VHF/UHF, but look forward to start operating on HF and try out other modes. At some point, I am looking to start learning CW. Also, contesting seems something I'd be interested in participating.

### **What help or information do you need to really get started in ham radio?**

Learning how to establish my first contacts on the radio, what to say, how to say it. The "how to" of the first few communications, to and from people outside my circle.

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## FLARC To Hold VE Testing On April 10<sup>th</sup> at NEW LOCATION

**On April 10, 2021** Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club will continue amateur radio test sessions on a trial basis. These sessions will be held indoors.

The location is at:

The Masonic Lodge  
99 S Maple Avenue  
Ridgewood, NJ

**NOTE THAT THIS IS AN INDOOR LOCATION!**

Covid-19 related incidents will cancel testing.

### Prior to Testing:

Send an email to [wo2w@arrrl.net](mailto:wo2w@arrrl.net) requesting to book your spot. **Pre-registration is REQUIRED.**

### Please Bring With You:

- You **MUST** bring and WEAR personal PPE items including a face mask
- 2 pens and 2 pencils. None will be provided to you due to possible virus transmission
- Your FRN number, and (if licensed) a copy of your ham license or a valid CSCE (Certificate of Successful Completion Exam)
- A completed Form 605 (which will be sent to you ahead of your test session, along with your assigned test time. )
- Additionally, the **\$15.00 exam fee**. This is payable in cash (**exact amount is a must**)
- 3 copies of the CSCE form which will be sent to you ahead of your test session

Additional scheduled testing dates are:  
May 8, 2021 and June 12, 2021.

*FLARC is following government Covid-19 guidance closely and all events will adhere accordingly to the latest advice.*

## FLARC Announces Outdoor Hamfest For Saturday, June 5, 2021

The club has announced the creation of its first hamfest to be held at the Fair Lawn Recycling Center on Saddle River Road on Saturday, June 5th, 2021 with a rain date to be decided.

This replaces our last year's Thanksgiving Friday auction, which was cancelled by the Covid-19 virus.

Details will follow but **please save the date** and **please volunteer** to make this a successful club event.

For questions please contact Gene WO2W at [wo2w@arrrl.net](mailto:wo2w@arrrl.net) or visit our website at [www.FairLawnARC.org](http://www.FairLawnARC.org).

*FLARC is following government Covid-19 guidance closely and all events will adhere accordingly to the latest advice.*



# Ham Radio Class Now Forming

ARC Squared (ARC2) will be holding a 3-evening online Technician Cram class where you can learn everything you need to pass your 35-question exam and earn your Technician (entry level) FCC Amateur Radio License.



**American  
Red Cross**

**The Technician license is your gateway to the world-wide excitement of Amateur Radio and emergency communication ... and now you do NOT need to learn Morse code!**

**Class:** 2 nights  
**Exam Question Review:** 1 night  
**Time:** 7 pm to 10 pm  
**Location:** Online using MS Teams  
**Fee:** Free

## **Schedule:**

- Introduction and Preview Wednesday, April 14 (1/2 hour)
- Class: Wednesday & Thursday, April 21 & 22
- Review: Friday, April 23
- Exam: Saturday, April 24 @ 12:30 pm

**Registration required:** *(full name, email address, and cell phone number)*  
*Registration closes April 14<sup>th</sup> or when class reaches full capacity of 20.*

**A free class book will be emailed, upon registration.**

Exam session will be outdoors in your car, in Fairfield, NJ.

To register or to ask questions, email: **[NB1LL@ARRL.net](mailto:NB1LL@ARRL.net)**

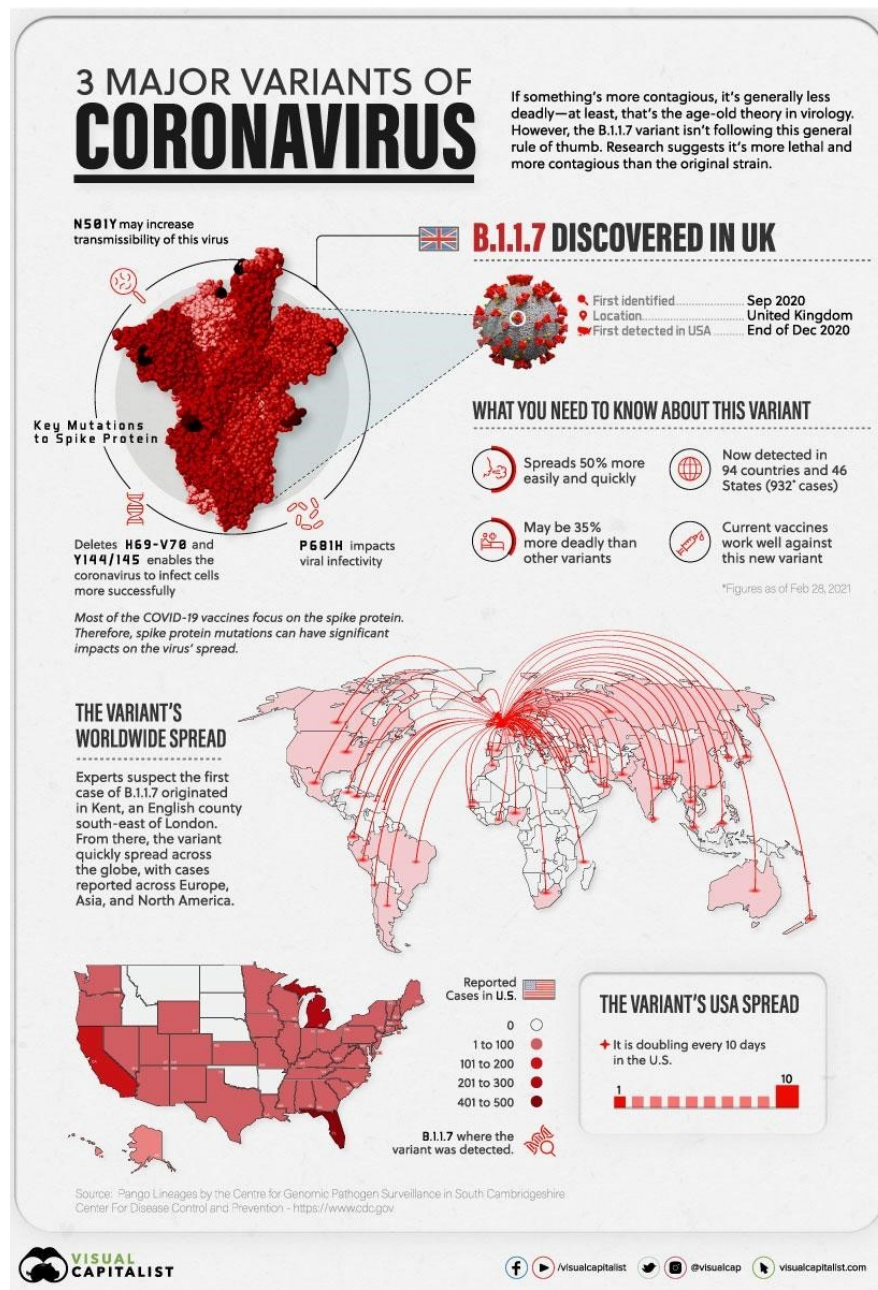
**Instructor: Bill Kelly, NB1LL**

**ARRL** The national association for  
AMATEUR RADIO®

Fellow FLARC Members,

**As we all know, the coronavirus continues to be top of the news and that the club is closed until further notice. Out of an overabundance of caution and our care for your safety, all FLARC events are postponed until further notice due to COVID-19.**

**Check in on our health and welfare net on the W2NPT repeater Wednesday at 7:00 PM and let us know how you're doing. You may be isolated at this time but you are not alone. Stay safe!**



COLLABORATORS RESEARCH + WRITING: Carmen Ang and Raul Amoros | DESIGN: Ale Dander and Athul Alexander | ART DIRECTION: Clayton Wadsworth



**The Club** Fair Lawn ARC is the fastest growing ham club around, with five operating positions in a permanent clubhouse. Visitors and guests are always welcome. The club is open every Friday night from NLT 6:30 PM. Business meetings are the first Friday of the month at 7:30PM.

#### 2021 Officers, Committees and Assignments

President	Nomar Vizcarrando	NP4H
Vice President	John L. Howard	W2JLH
Treasurer	Bruce Kalogera	NJ2BK
Secretary	Tom McCabe	N2AXX
Trustee	Ed Efchak	WX2R
Trustee	Don Cassarini	K2PD
Trustee	Fred Wawra	W2ABE
Field Day	Steve Wraga	WA2BYX
Member Services	Judith Shaw	KC2LTM
Publicity	Ed Efchak	WX2R
Publicity	Gene Ottenheimer	WO2W
Publicity	Judith Shaw	KC2LTM
Publicity	Susan Frank	W6SKT
Program	Lowell Vant Slot	W2DLT
Publicity	Karl Frank	W2KBF
Publicity	Nomar Vizcarrando ( <i>ex officio</i> )	NP4H
Social Media	Dave Marotti	NK2Q
Video/YouTube	Thom Guida	W2NZ
VE Liaison	Gene Ottenheimer	WO2W
VE Liaison	Pete Senesi	KD2BMX
Contests	Lowell Vant Slot	W2DLT
Education	Gordon Beattie	W2TTT
Education	Randy Smith	WU2S
Education	John L. Howard	K2JLH
Education	Fred Wawra	W2ABE
History	Fred Belghaus	W2AAB
Health and Welfare	Judith Shaw	KC2LTM
Photographer	Don Cassarini	N2PRT
W2NPT Trustee	Paul Cornett	W2IP
Technical	Paul Cornett	W2IP
Technical	Randy Smith	WU2S
Technical	Fred Wawra	W2ABE
RACES/ARES Director	Dave Gotlib	KD2MOB
RACES/ARES Liaison	Steve Wraga	WA2BYX
Newsletter Editor	Ed Efchak	WX2R
FL Town Liaison	Gene Ottenheimer	WO2W
Net Scheduler	Brian Cirulnick	KD2KLN
Quartermaster	Brian Cirulnick	KD2KLN

## Fair Lawn RACES/ARES Corner



Hello fellow ARES members and friends.

With Spring and the warmer weather ahead, FL-ARES is preparing for additional drills with the American Red Cross. The actual drill will be taking place on Saturday, May 8th, and there will be practice drills, in preparation for the actual drill. More information will be provided in the May 2021 FL-ARES Column.

We have very big news to report. A new ARES Net is taking place every Wednesday at 8:00 PM, which is the same time slot and uses the same frequencies as the FL-ARES Net. The new ARES Net combines FL-ARES with Bergen County ARES and Passaic County ARES for one weekly Northeast NJ ARES Net.

It has come to our attention that combining the Nets would provide greater interest (check-ins), more emergency communications discussion and messaging during one timeframe versus three separate dates and times. Sure enough it has!!

I would like to thank Ali ALØY, Ed KD2TVZ and Jim N2JLF for being the Net Control Operators (NCO) or alternate Net Control Operators (ANCO). We sent practice and live Radiograms over the last month and I would like to thank Ali ALØY and Hank WA2CCN for sending the Radiograms. Job well done!!

Our Nets are open to all amateur radio enthusiasts. Our ARES members, who are volunteers, are able to assist anyone with answers to questions they may have regarding emergency communications. Also, our Nets include members who are not only a part of Fair Lawn ARES, the nets consist of members from

Continued on page 6.

## Fair Lawn RACES/ARES Corner,

Bergen County ARES, Passaic County ARES, Gloucester County ARES and Wayne County ARES as well.

We are all invited to connect to the local Winlink Radio Message Server (RMS) ALØY-3 via the NJ2PC Repeater on a frequency of 146.610 MHz using Winlink, VARA FM. The Winlink drills are typically all day on Sundays and I would encourage the FL-ARES team and other ARES members to send messages using WinLink. Winlink is a messaging program which encompasses various messaging applications such as Telnet, Packet, VARA HF and VARA FM.

ALØY-3 is one of two Radio Message Servers within 100 miles which has the capability of using VARA FM and ALØY-3 is only 4 to 6 miles away from Fair Lawn.

Winlink opens up the world to emergency communications. There are many hams who aren't very familiar with Winlink; however with practice, discussions and watching videos, learning comes a long way.

Please note the time of the New Northeast NJ ARES Nets (KB2FLA Nets). They are taking place on Wednesdays at 2000 hours on the FLARC and NJ2BS Repeaters. Maybe one day the NJ2PC Repeater will be connected as well. Please join us every Wednesday for any updates, messages or activities which may take place. We are on

## Fair Lawn RACES/ARES Corner, cont.

the following Repeaters and Echolink:

The Fair Lawn ARC Repeater info is: RX 145.47 MHz / TX 144.87, PL Tone 167.9 Hz.

Echolink W2NPT-R.

The NJ2BS Repeater info is: RX 146.835 MHz / TX 146.235, PL Tone 151.4 Hz.

Echolink KD2BKD-L.

FL-ARES would like to thank the FLARC for the use of its repeater as well as the Venture Crew 73 73 Club for the use of their repeater.

We are fortunate to make Fair Lawn and the surrounding communities our home. With our leadership and support from the FLARC we can grow and be of assistance in many community events. We are always seeking new members to join FL-ARES.

Please sign up for various nets and activities taking place at the following email address:

<https://arrr.volunteerhub.com /lp/nnj>

Info on FL-RACES is as follows:

Our next FL-RACES KB2FLR net will take place on Wednesday, April 14th at 2030 hours on the Fair Lawn ARC Repeater as well as the NJ2BS Repeater (frequencies noted above).

FL-RACES is part of several RACES groups which

Continued on page 8.

### Joe Lannuier K2JK SK

The club sadly notes the death of fellow member Joe Lannuier **K2JK** of Closter on March 15. Joe was a club member for many years and was a very active FLARC Volunteer Examiner, rarely missing a testing session. He was an avid DX'er (including Triple Play) and a highly skilled operator.

The club extends its condolences to his family. A memorial service is planned for May as of press time.

## MASTER EVENT CALENDAR

**Out of an overabundance of caution and our care for your safety, (not to mention state law) all FLARC events are postponed or rescheduled until further notice due to COVID-19.**

April 16, 2021	Wayne Smith WB2ONZ "A Look At The Contemporary Civil Air Patrol"
May 21, 2021	Carl Leutelschwab K9LA "Propagation and Cycle 25"
June 5, 2021	The FLARC Hamfest
June 11, 2021	Barry Feurman K3EUI "Sound Card Digital Modes"
June 13, 2021	The Radburn Street Fair (Tentative)
June 26-27	ARRL Field Day
July	TBD
August	TBD
September	TBD
October	TBD
October 17, 2021	The River Road Street Fair (Tentative)
November 19, 2021	Tom Perera W1TP "Spy Radios and CIA Bugs"
December 17, 2021	"An Update on the ARRL"

## More Than A Club... A Community Of Friends!



Hidetsugu Yagi's 130th Birthday Google Doodle

### SIG Group Participation as of March 16, 2021

Here is an update on the roster of Special Interest Groups...all groups have increased in size during the last month:

Digital Voice	29
Monitoring	23
DX	14
FT8	17
Portable Ops	24
Satellite	10

FLARC General 133

Sign up for a group... or ...  
why not start one?

Contact [webmaster@FairLawnARC.org](mailto:webmaster@FairLawnARC.org)  
if you would like to start a new  
Special Interest Group.

### Follow FLARC ON THE WEB

**Facebook:** <http://facebook.FairLawnARC.org>

**Twitter:** @FairLawnARC

**Blog:** <http://blog.FairLawnARC.org>

**Youtube:** <http://youtube.FairLawnARC.org>

**Website:** <http://FairLawnARC.org>



## **“The Communications Importance of the Civil Air Patrol”**

**2021 FLARC April 16<sup>th</sup>**

**"Kawfee Tawk" Series**

The Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club (FLARC) continues its highly acclaimed series of monthly speaker programs with a discussion on a critical but often unnoticed part of our communications security infrastructure – The Civil Air Patrol (CAP). The program will be held on Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. Here is the link:

### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84529955957?pwd=UFN2bG9yMDdBSVNLREVLZFh6cm1sdz09>

**Meeting ID: 845 2995 5957**

**Passcode: flarctawk**

Our speaker will be Lt. Colonel Wayne Smith who is a graduate of Civil Air Patrol National Staff College and also the Communications Training Officer for the New York Wing. He manages a volunteer team supporting air and ground-based VHF and HF radio communications, supporting Civil Air Patrol missions including: Emergency services, air search and rescue, homeland security and cadet programs. He has more than eleven years of experience in this role. Wayne has also been an active ham since the 1970s. He has an Advanced Class license (WB2ONZ). He enjoys digital communications modes and mobile operating, including mobile HF. He is a member of the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club.

CAP's radio systems are well-prepared to provide contingency communications when commercial communications systems are unavailable or overloaded. CAP holds 15 national voice nets a week on multiple HF frequencies with close to 120 daily check-ins. All 50 states plus Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia are represented in the national nets. There are many region and state-level HF nets on various schedules. Some areas conduct local VHF nets. CAP also maintains duty station watch on a national suite of dedicated ALE ([Automatic Link Establishment](#)) frequencies, ready for unscheduled relay of internal and external traffic, and is developing an infrastructure of MilStd 188-110 data communications, which will have HF modems installed at all levels of the organization. Over 19,000 CAP members are trained in use of these radio systems, including close to 4,500 holding, or in training for, advanced communications qualifications. Many, but by no means all, are amateur radio operators.

This talk will be of key importance to those either currently involved or interested in providing emergency communications and we urge you to attend.

So, save the date – Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup> -- for this important and always relevant discussion.



## **The Sun, the Ionosphere and the New Solar Cycle 25**

**2021 FLARC May 21<sup>st</sup>  
"Kawfee Tawk" Series**

The Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club (FLARC) continues its highly acclaimed series of monthly speaker programs with one of the experts in solar propagation giving us a look ahead to Cycle 25.

Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA will review solar cycles and give an introduction to HF propagation. He will discuss what to expect for propagation now and in the next year or so. He will show the predictions for Solar Cycle 25 and estimate when the higher bands (15 meters, 12 meters and 10 meters) will be back on a consistent day-to-day basis. Finally, he will highlight what you can do with 100 Watts and simple antennas when Solar Cycle 25 ramps up in the next several years.

**The program is to be held on Friday, May 21, 2021 at 7:30 PM EDT via Zoom.**

K9LA started his radio career as a short wave listener in the late 1950s. He received his Novice license (WN9AVT) in October 1961, and selected K9LA in 1977. Carl is a graduate of Purdue University and was an RF design engineer until his retirement in 2013. Carl enjoys propagation, DXing (he's at the Top of the Honor Roll), contesting (he was NCJ Editor from 2002-2007), experimenting with antennas and restoring/using vintage equipment. He is co-author of *The CQ Shortwave Propagation Handbook*.

He and his wife Vicky AE9YL enjoy traveling, which has included DXpeditions to Syria (YK9A in 2001), to Market Reef (OJØ/AE9YL and OJØ/K9LA in 2002) and numerous trips to ZF (Vicky is ZF2YL and Carl is ZF2LA). Carl is currently the ARRL Central Division Vice Director. He has received the Bill Orr W6SAI Technical Writing Award, the YASME Foundation Excellence Award and the Indiana Radio Club Council Technical Excellence Award.

This program is a must for all those interested in DX, contesting and emergency communications. Instructions for tuning into this Zoom presentation will follow.

So, save the date – Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 PM EDT -- for this important and always relevant discussion.



Carl K9LA





## AMATEUR RADIO TESTING BY THE FAIR LAWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

On April 10, 2021 the Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club will continue amateur radio test sessions on a modified basis.

These sessions will be held at the **Ridgewood Masonic Lodge.**

**The location is at 99 South Maple Avenue, Ridgewood, NJ**

The session starts at 9:15 AM.

A document will be provided to you prior to the date to indicate the time assigned to you.

You must have it with you to take the test.

### Prior to Testing:

Send an email to [wo2w@arrl.net](mailto:wo2w@arrl.net) requesting to book your spot.

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED - NO WALK-INS ACCEPTED.**

### Upon Arrival:

You must have a government issued ID such as a valid driver's license or passport, a filled out Form 605, and **3 filled out copies of the FCC CSCE form.**

### Please Bring With You:

- You **MUST** bring and **WEAR** personal PPE items including a face mask.
- 2 pens and 2 pencils. None will be provided to you, due to possible virus transmission.
- Your FRN number, and (if licensed) a copy of your ham license or a valid CSCE (Certificate of Successful Completion Exam).
- Additionally, the **\$15.00 exam fee**. This is payable in cash (exact amount is a must).

# THE GREAT FLARC HAMFEST

## Save The Date!

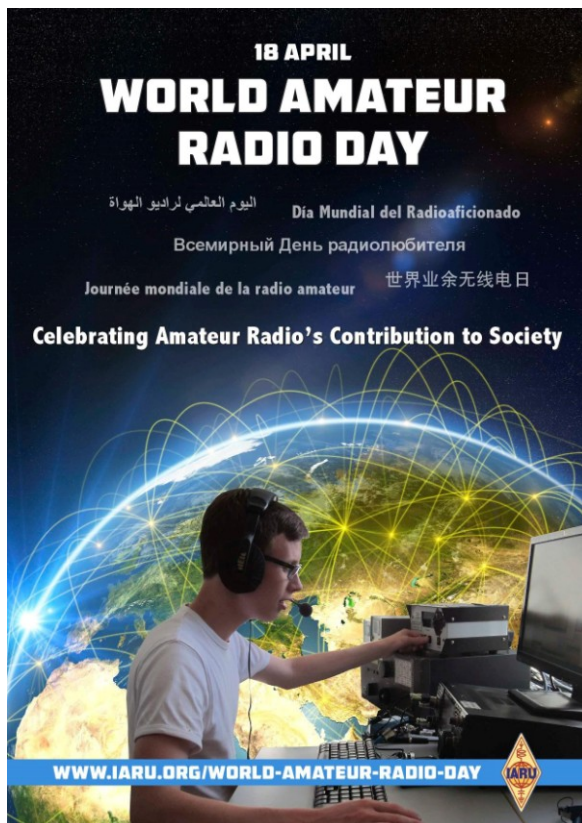
### June 5, 2021



**Special Note:** *As non-profit, the IRS now requires that we disclose annually the use of paid lobbyists to our members and indicate approximately what percentage of their dues goes toward that. 0% of your 2021 dues payment will be used by the club to directly pay a lobbyist firm to lobby on behalf of all our members regarding pending legislation that impacts our hobby.*

## World Amateur Radio Day Is Coming!

### Save The Date: April 18<sup>th</sup>!



## Please Note: Operating at W2NPT

Starting in January 2019 club trustees have sign-in sheets for all operating positions. There is a clipboard at Operating Position #1, #2 (digital) and #4 with a form on which to sign up for half-hour time slots. No longer first come-first served, in fairness to all who want to use our club equipment and the new antennas. Hopefully some day we will again be able to use our operation positions!

## Get Direct With FLARC!

Here is a direct link to specific club info: just a click away!

<http://apparel.FairLawnARC.org>  
<http://auction.FairLawnARC.org>  
<http://blog.FairLawnARC.org>  
<http://calendar.FairLawnARC.org>  
<http://events.FairLawnARC.org>  
<http://exams.FairLawnARC.org>  
<http://facebook.FairLawnARC.org>  
<http://news.FairLawnARC.org>  
<http://swap.FairLawnARC.org>  
<http://tech.FairLawnARC.org>  
<http://youtube.FairLawnARC.org>

**NEW!**

<https://groups.io/g/FairLawnARC>



## Online License Testing!

Are you looking to get your license or upgrade without leaving your home? All you need is a laptop computer with a video camera.

There are number of sites listed on [hamstudy.org/sessions](http://hamstudy.org/sessions) These folks will walk you through taking an exam online.

I have worked with both WB5QNG and AA7HW. If you have any questions, please contact me at [mStevenk2sab@gmail.com](mailto:mStevenk2sab@gmail.com)

73,  
Steven Boston K2SAB

## April 2021 *Near and Far* Net Controls

Here is the roster for net controls for the upcoming month as reported by Brian KD2KLN:

Date	Net Control
April 5	NP4H
April 12	KD2MOB
April 19	KD2KLN
April 26	N2AAM

But we need more volunteers to be net controls -- if everyone takes their turn it's less burden on the others. And it's easy.

Volunteer --- don't wait to be asked  
(unless you really want to be flattered).

## Ham Radio Is Contagious And It Won't Make You Sick!!

### Reminder: Pop Up Tuesdays Are Back!

Zoom room <https://zoom.com>

Meeting ID: 814 8966 2864  
Passcode: POP-FLARC

19:00 EDT

You asked for it!! More time to catch up with others. Remember the session is leaderless. Just check-in and have fun. No agenda ...just a chance to kick back and catch up.

Formal dress is optional.



## Club Apparel — Get Them While They're **RED**!

Club apparel is always in vogue. Red is always "in" and your club friends all have them... you *want* a shirt or jacket for the next FLARC event! Great for Field Day!

Don't forget.... they're easy to order.

Go to [www.hamthreads.com](http://www.hamthreads.com)

or visit <http://apparel.FairLawnARC.org>

Check out the item selection that is posted on the FLARC website (with pictures and prices). Order the shirts or other items you want with either the regular FLARC logo or the still-cool 60th anniversary logo. Note: **RED** is the primary and preferred club standard shirt color.



The 2017 FLARC Officers

## 2021 FLARC Nets On The W2NPT Repeater:

*Near and Far Net Mondays at 8PM*

*Health and Welfare Net Wednesdays at 7PM*

*W2NPT and NJ2BS Repeaters*

## Help Wanted

The Publicity Committee is looking for some new members to help continue to improve the marketing and promotion of the club, it's activities and amateur radio. This is an active group so a willingness to participate is a strong plus. Experience in digital marketing and/or public relations is a plus.

Call Ed WX2R at 802-282-6700 or email him at [wx2r@arrl.net](mailto:wx2r@arrl.net) if you're interested.

**Remember:  
Ham Radio Is A Contact Sport!**

### BEQUEATHS AND DONATIONS

Planned gifts usually imply the family donation of amateur equipment to the club when someone has become a Silent Key. But it can be more. Club members might consider making a gift through a will or trust; gifts that help provide lifetime income to the club. Consult with your lawyer, estate planner or tax advisor if you feel such a gift is worthy.

## About The Club

*The Resonator* is published monthly and is the official (and only) newsletter of The Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club. FLARC was established in 1956 and has met continuously since inception. **The club is sponsored by the Borough of Fair Lawn.** The club meets every Friday at 6PM at the club station in The Fair Lawn Community Center, 10-10 20th Street, Fair Lawn, NJ. Business meetings are the first Friday of the month at 7:30 PM, on Zoom for now.

Visitors **ARE ALWAYS** welcome at our meetings.

FLARC operates the W2NPT repeater (145.470-PL **167.9**) located high atop the Community Center. The analog repeater is open to all amateurs for use without restrictions.

The club has over one hundred fifty paid members. Dues are currently \$25 per year;  
\$20 for new members.

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## Here To Serve You!!

**The Health and Welfare Umbrella  
Net  
Wednesdays  
7PM Local  
W2NPT and NJ2BS Repeaters  
Open To All**

## PUBLICITY COMMITTEE NEWS

The Publicity Committee is seeking new members to help grow the club with its varied activities. Enthusiasm desired... no experience necessary. Contact Ed WX2R or any other committee member.

**FAIR LAWN'S  
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER!  
*With New Antennas On The Roof!***





## How Do We Keep Up To Date With Ham Radio? The FLARC Member Survey Has The Answer

Van W2DLT asked that we add a question to this year's survey that inquired about what we read regarding ham radio. The results may surprise you.

On a "regular" basis, more than eight in ten FLARC'ers read *QST* (with half reading in print).

In second place was the new ARRL publication *On The Air* which six in ten members read regularly.

Third was *CQ*; a contest magazine for some but a varied interest publication read by one in three members regularly.

In fourth place was ARRL's *QEX* read by three in ten members.

And rounding out the top five was *Nuts and Volts* read by two in ten members.

So ARRL publications were far and away the primary source for printed material regarding ham radio with an increasing percentage saying that they are reading more digital than print (except for *QST*).

Since "science and technology" is a key reason for entering the hobby, what are we reading or following in that broad general category?

*National Geographic* and *Wired* are read regularly by two in ten members; *Popular Mechanics* by one in eight, *Scientific American* by one in ten.

Club members follow many blogs and social media pages on a regular basis as well as specialty newsletters such as DX News.

All in all, club members consume a lot of media specific to ham radio in addition to following the club via this newsletter, social media and YouTube videos.

If you have a question you'd like to see asked in next year's member survey, drop Ed WX2R a note at [wx2r@arrl.net](mailto:wx2r@arrl.net) and we'll get it in the 2022 edition.

## 2019-20 Member Profiles

The year is now complete and here is a list of the 2019 monthly profiles. See past profiles elsewhere in *The Resonator* to check back in the archives to see each featured member's background.

Month	Name	Call Sign
January 2019	Dave	KD2JIP
February	Jim	K2ZO
March	Zach	KC2RSS
April	Bob	N2SU
May	Stan	KC2K
June	Steve	WA2BYX
July	Roger	K2RRB
August	Judith	KC2LTM
September	Chris	W2TU
October	Bob	N2SU
November	Bob	WA2ISE
December	Carol	KD2NMV
January 2020	Gordon	W2TTT
February	Chris	KD2JQZ
March	Glenn	KD2MDR
April	Steve	K2SAB
May	Ahmed	NJ8Y
June	Charlie	AC2ZU
July	Jim	N2JLF
August	Walt	K3DQB
September	Gregg	N2ECH
October	Jim	W2KNG
November	Dave	KD2SGM
December	Bill	NB1ILL

## 2021 Dues Are Due

**Dues for 2021 will be accepted by the club starting on December 4<sup>th</sup> with the 2020 Annual Meeting. There are no changes to dues for the upcoming year. CUTOFF DATE IS MAY 31, 2021.**

**Please make checks payable to "Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club" and send them to**

**Bruce Kalogera NJ2BK  
163 Meadow Lane  
Secaucus, NJ 07094**

Mail sent to the clubhouse will be delayed due to Covid. See website for other membership options.  
<http://membership.FairLawnARC.org>



## Past FLARC Member Profiles

Here is a list of past member features and we welcome your recommendations for new profiles -- including your own.

Month	Name	Call Sign
January 2016	Pete	KB2BMX
February	Marco	KC2ZMA
March	Ron	KC2TBD
April	Kai	K2TRW
May	Larry	WA2ALY
June	Dave	N8MAR
July	Steve	WI2W
August	Thom	W2NZ
September	Brian	KD2KLN
October	Brad	KM2C
November	Al	WA2OWL
December	George	W3EH
January 2017	Fred	W2ABE
February	Dave	KD2MOB
March	Randy	WU2S
April	Lee	KD2DRS
May	Gene	WO2W
June	Carol	KD2NMV
July	Kevin	KC2KCC
August	Robert	KD2NOG
September	Robert	KD2BKD
October	John	KD2NRS
November	Fred	W2AAB
December	Margaret	W2GB
January 2018	Brian	KD2OAZ
February	Bennett	KO2OK
March	Van	W2DLT
April	Aly	ALØY
May	Bruce	NJ2BK
June	Dave	N2AAM
July	Karl and Susan	W2KBF and W2SKT
August	Steve	KA2YRA
September	Paul	K2PJC
October	Skip	KD2BRV
November	Jim	W2JC
December	Tom	N2AAX

By the way, Randy (WU2S) has compiled a binder of all back issues of *The Resonator* and it's located in the club office.

Thanks Randy!!!

## Blood Donors Needed In This Time of Emergency

The Red Cross and related organizations are in great need for blood donations since most corporate blood drives have been cancelled.

[Communitybloodservices.com](https://www.communitybloodservices.com) has a network of offices open during the week and would really welcome folks making appointments to donate blood.

Thanks!



# American Red Cross

## 2021 Member Profiles

Here is a list of the 2021 monthly profiles. See past profiles elsewhere in *The Resonator* to check back in the archives to see each featured member's background.

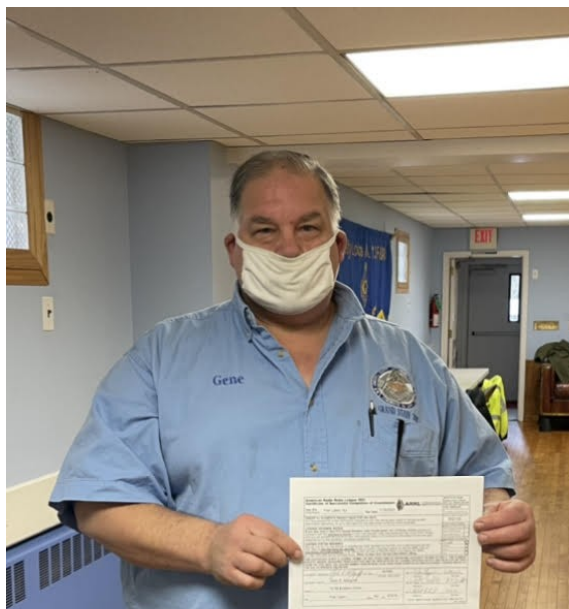
Month	Name	Call Sign
January 2021	Ed	KD2TVT
February	John	W2USN
March	Noel	W2MSA
April	Gene	KD2VNI
May		
June		
July		
August		
September		
October		
November		
December		

Want to be profiled? Send a note to [wx2r@arrl.net](mailto:wx2r@arrl.net) and you too can become famous!

**New Member Profile**, continued**What else can you tell the club about yourself and/or ham radio?**

Always somewhat active in what I do or join, but like others can drift. I have been the owner of a landscape company for 15 years, commercial driver 15 years and supermarket for 42, all concurrent. I joined the Masonic fraternity (Freemasons) at age 21 and have served in various leadership roles during my tenure, including District Ritual Instructor, District Deputy Grand Master and Grand Marshal, and various other groups and committees. Though not fluent, I have a working knowledge of the Spanish language and have performed ceremonial work for the Masons in Portuguese and Spanish.

I am looking forward to this new experience as a Ham Radio Operator, and not only learning more about radio theory, operation, experimenting, but also to serve - as I know Ham Radio Operators in many ways are committed to their communities, something that truly interests me. But also to join this great fraternity of friends all over the world and those close to me here at home. I know that through FLARC, I will gain a wonderful group of friends and mentors.

**FLARC March 13, 2021  
VE Testing Results**

With VE testing back on a trial basis, Gene W02W reports the following results:

Name	Call	License Earned
Jake Vogelesang	KD2VZN	Technician
John Tripi	KD2VRM	General
Louis Vitule	KD2VZM	Technician
Marco Menazzi-Moretti	KD2VZL	Technician
Andrew Curlik	KB2LMN	General
Joseph D'Agostino	KD2BER	Extra
Edgar Balagot	KD2VZP	General
Thomas Panucci	KD2VZK	Technician
Ronald Zarzecki	KD2VZO	Technician
Vladimir Goldstein	KD2PJL	Extra

Testing for April will be indoors, at the Ridgewood Masonic Lodge - with "Covid Restrictions."

See page 2 of this Resonator copy, and also the

**Six Special Interest Groups [SIGs]  
Already Formed: Any Others?**

We may be in lockdown but there is no lack of club interest. So far we have groups for DX, Radio Monitoring, FT8, Digital Voice, Satellite, and Portable Ops.

Other possible groups, from the member survey, include:

- *Radio Propagation*
- *Antennas*
- *Kit building*
- *Raspberry pi and Arduino and*
- *Ham radio software*

Anyone interested in leading any of these groups...?

Please contact Nomar NP4H.

**Here Comes The Sun  
Hello Solar Cycle 25!**



Image from May, 1926 QST, courtesy ARRL

## The Way We Were By Fred Belghaus W2AAB

### A Tale of Two Hobbies

Sometimes, our amateur radio hobby can be combined with another hobby. This month, we'll explore one example of that.

I'm a child of the 1950s. In those days kids, at least boy type kids, were expected to do certain things — like play softball, baseball, football, or basketball. Nobody ever heard of soccer or lacrosse in those days. Most of us were also expected to “take up” a musical instrument. I studied two: the B-flat clarinet and shortly thereafter, the alto sax. That was my dad's doing. He was a professional musician, and an alto man himself. Personally, I would have preferred the piano. We were also expected to take up some hobby. Collecting baseball cards was a popular activity, and many of us collected stamps.

I started my collection with world postage stamps bought in large, inexpensive packets. Then, I specialized only in U.S. stamps, plate blocks, and sheets; then, First Day Covers, and “stampless” covers. Much later, I abandoned postage stamps entirely, in favor of more exotic areas, including Revenue stamps, Telegraphs, “Match and Medicine” and Private Die Proprietaries.

It's possible to combine an interest in amateur radio with stamp collecting, not in a way that you might expect, such as with postage stamps on envelopes or QSL cards. If you work any amount of DX, especially from Europe, South America, and Africa, you may have noticed that on the back of the QSL cards from these areas, either a simple hand-stamp or an actual adhesive stamp has been applied to the card. These are applied by the national amateur radio societies operating QSL bureaus, and indicate which bureau handled the DX station's cards on the way to our own QSL bureaus in the United States.

How would a stamp collector classify these stamps? In philatelic terms, they would probably be considered “cinderellas.” That term refers to stamps not issued by a government for postage or revenue, nor used for telegram charges or other fees. Other examples would include stamps used for advertising, and for promoting charities, state and county fairs, or conventions.

Bureau stamps first appeared in the 1930s. Most were used until the 1970s, but some bureaus still use them to this day. In this article, I've assembled a sort of “catalog” of stamps I have found from these QSL Bureaus, arranged alphabetically by country of origin. This “catalog” includes adhesive stamps, with a small number of exceptions. Many more Bureaus have used hand-stamps only, and including them all would be beyond the scope of this article. Here they are, by country:

#### ANGOLA

L.A.R.A., Perf., Green, 26mm X 32mm,  
with Huambo District 9 hand-stamp, 1958

(Note: There is no QSL Bureau presently operating in Angola)



## The Way We Were, continued.

### ARGENTINA

Radio Club Argentino, Perf., Triangle, Black,  
30mm X 30mm X 34mm, 1951



### AUSTRALIA

Wireless Institute of Australia, VK4 QSL Bureau, Imperf.,  
label stamp, Black, 17.5mm X 17.5mm, 1989



### BELGIUM

R.B. (Reseau Belge) [1], Perf., Black and Blue-Green,  
Var. 1, 20mm X 35mm, "10c" denom., 1933



R.B., Perf., Black and Blue-Green, Var. 2,  
15mm X 28mm, "10c" denom., 1935

FEB – VBZ (Unidentified, possibly Flemish section within R.B.) [2],  
Perf., Red and Yellow, 21mm X 24mm, 1938



U.B.A. (Royal Union of Belgian Radio Amateurs) [3] QSL Bureau,  
Perf., Brown, 15mm X 26mm, 1949  
(This design used extensively until at least the 1960s)

U.B.A. QSL Bureau, Perf., Blue on Blue-Green,  
12mm X 26mm, 1967



## The Way We Were, continued.

### BRAZIL



L.A.B.R.E. (Liga de Amadores Brasileiros de Radio Emissao) [4] –  
“PY4 Exterior,” Perf., Red, 14mm X 18mm, 1962

L.A.B.R.E., Perf., Black, 20mm X 30mm, 1965



### COLOMBIA



L.C.R.A. (Liga Colombiana de Radio Aficionados) [5],  
Perf., Green, Denom. 10 centavos, 21mm X 25mm, 1974

L.C.R.A., Imperf., Blue, No denom.,  
22mm X 25 mm, 1989



### COSTA RICA

Radio Club de Costa Rica, Perf., Violet and Purple,  
28mm X 21mm, 1966



### CZECHOSLOVAKIA

(Deleted Entity)



C.A.V. (Czechoslovak Amateur Broadcasters) [6]  
QSL Bureau, Perf., Blue, 10mm X 16mm, 1936



## The Way We Were, continued.

### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

R.C.D. (Radio Club Dominicano) [7], Perf., Gray,  
17mm X 28mm, 1975



### FRANCE



R.E.F. (Reseau des Emetteurs Francais) [8],  
Perf., Dark Blue, 19mm X 25mm, 1937



R.E.F., Perf., Blue, 20mm X 24mm, 1938

R.E.F., Perf., Blue, Horiz. Pair, 20mm X 26mm, 1954



R.E.F., Perf., Red, Horiz. Pair, 20mm X 26mm, 1966

### GERMANY

D.A.S.D. (Deutschen Amateur Sende und Empfangs Dienstes) [9],  
Fluted, Gold on Red, 15mm X 15mm, 1931



## The Way We Were, continued.

### GERMANY

D.A.S.D., Fluted, Silver on Blue, 15mm X 15mm, 1936



NOTE: The D.A.S.D. also published a national amateur radio magazine called DASD-CQ until approximately 1944. [9] As the national organization of radio amateurs in Germany, it was replaced by the D.A.R.C. (Deutscher Amateur Radio Club), which operates the German QSL Bureau at present. The D.A.R.C. has never, to my knowledge, used adhesive stamps for their QSL Bureau services.

### HUNGARY



M.R.A.O.E. (Magyar Rovidhullamu Amatorok Orszagos Egyesulete) =  
“National Union of Hungarian Shortwave Amateurs” [10],  
Perf., Dark Blue, 14mm X 25mm, 1936

### JAPAN

J.A.R.L. (Japan Amateur Radio League) [11],  
Perf., Brown, 21mm X 27mm, 1963



### MEXICO



F.M.R.E. (Federacion Mexicana de Radio Experimentadores) [12],  
Imperf., Green, 24mm X 28mm, 2011

### NETHERLANDS

N.V.I.R. (Nederlandsche Vereeniging voor  
Internationaal Radioamateurisme) [13],  
Perf., Blue, 20mm X 15mm, 1933



## The Way We Were, continued.

### NETHERLANDS

N.V.I.R., Perf., Tan, 20mm X 15mm, 1936



V.E.R.O.N. (Vereniging voor Experimenteel Radio Onderzoek in Nederland) [14], Perf., Black, Var. 1, 17mm X 24mm, 1954

V.E.R.O.N., Perf., Black, Var. 2, 23mm X 42mm, 1957



### PARAGUAY



R.C.P. (Radio Club Paraguayo) [15], Part Perf., Red, 23mm X 27mm, 1974

### SOUTH AFRICA

S.A.R.L. (South African Radio League) [16], Perf., Black, 11.5mm X 31.5mm, 1977



NOTE: This type has been used for many years, and may still be in use.

## The Way We Were, continued.

### SPAIN

Red Espanola (QSL Bureau), Perf., Red, 24mm X 26mm, 1931



U.R.E. (Union de Radioaficionados Espanoles) [17],  
Perf., Brown, 16mm X 31mm, 1932

U.R.E., Perf., Red on Yellow paper, 15mm X 20mm, 1976



U.R.E., Perf., Blue, 15mm X 24mm, 1977

### SWEDEN

S.S.A. (Foreningen Sveriges Sandareamatorer) [18],  
Perf., Orange, 20mm X 27mm, 1960s



S.S.A., Perf., Green, 21mm X 25mm, 1989

### SWITZERLAND

U.S.K.A. (Union Schweizerischer Kurzwellen-Amateure =  
"Union of Swiss Radio Amateurs"), [19]  
Perf., Black, "Taxe 3 Cts.," 26mm X 21mm, 1931



## The Way We Were, continued.

### SWITZERLAND

U.S.K.A., Perf., Red and White (Flag of Switzerland),  
26mm X 20mm, 1935



NOTE: This stamp has appeared on QSL cards as late as the 1950s.

### U.S.S.R. (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)

There are no known adhesive stamps issued by the U.S.S.R. QSL Bureau, only several rarely seen hand-stamps. The only one that most living hams might remember is this one from the famous (or infamous) Central Radio Club, Box 88, Moscow:

БЮРО ОБМЕНА (Byuro Obmyena) =  
"Exchange Bureau," Box 88, Moscow, 1956



NOTE: Currently, in Bulgaria the meaning of this term is different.  
It denotes a brokerage, or a place where foreign currencies may be exchanged!  
(Source: web search)

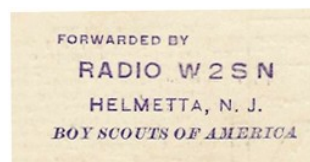
### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The A.R.R.L. (American Radio Relay League) operates affiliate QSL Bureaus for every U.S.A. call area for distributing QSLs from DX amateurs. No adhesive stamps have been issued. During the early 1930s, DX cards were handled at A.R.R.L. Headquarters. Only hand-stamps were applied to the foreign cards, as in the example below:



A.R.R.L. Forwarding stamp, 1931

There were also individual amateurs who handled DX cards for their own call area. The W2-QSL Bureau was handled by Henry Yahnel, W2SN, of Helmetta, NJ, until this task was taken up, many years later, by the North Jersey DX Association.



W2-QSL Bureau (W2SN), hand-stamp, 1933



## The Way We Were, continued.

### VENEZUELA

A.R.V. (Asociacion de Radioaficionados Venezuela) [20],  
Perf., Magenta, Horiz. Pair, 23mm X 28mm, 1974



A.R.V., Imperf., Label Stamp, Red, 23mm X 26mm, 1976

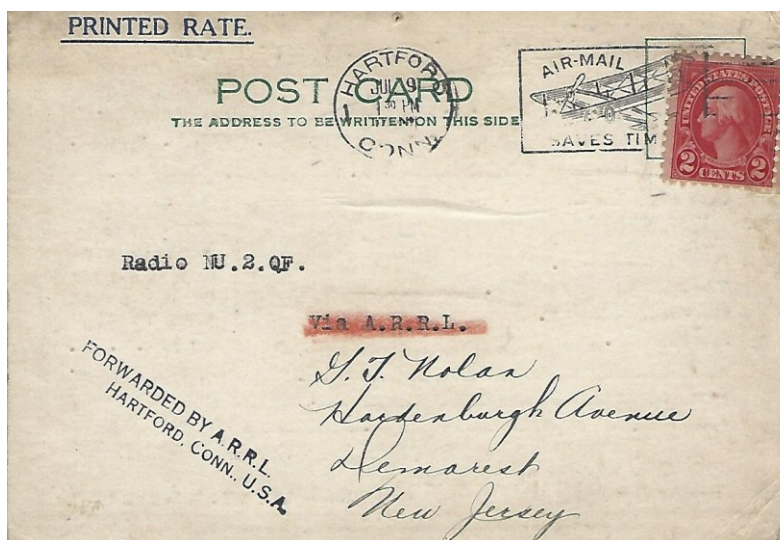


R.C.V. (Radio Club Venezolano) [21], Perf.,  
Green, Horiz. Pair, 22mm X 25mm, 1976

R.C.V., Perf., Orange, 22mm X 25mm, 1976



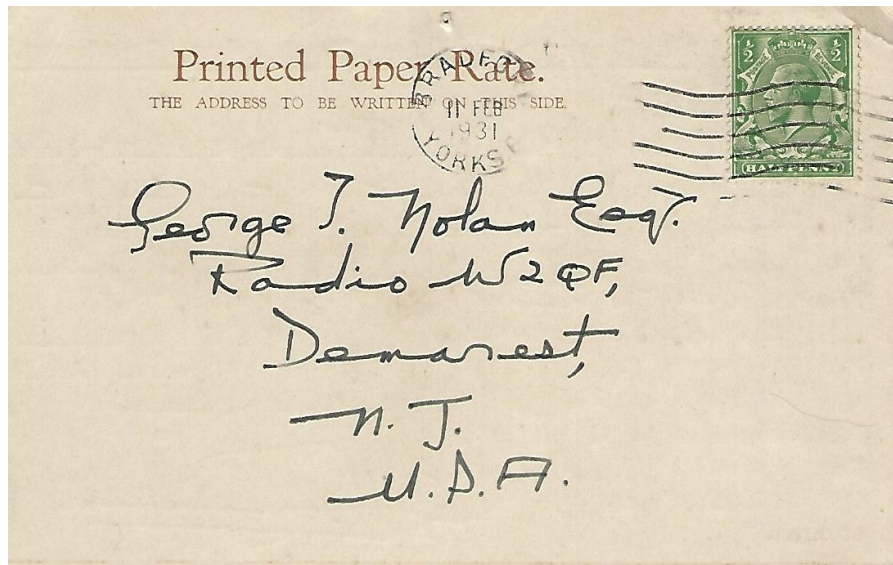
For a little perspective on the relative cost of mailing a single QSL card to a DX station, or to the U.S.A. from Europe in the late 1920's and early 1930's, here are the backs of two QSLs:



G5MQ in Liverpool, England, sent his QSL to W2QF of Demarest, NJ via the A.R.R.L. QSL forwarding service in 1927. The mailing cost from the A.R.R.L. to W2QF was 2 cents (postcard rate).

## The Way We Were, continued.

But four years later, in 1931, G6BR in Yorkshire, England, sent his QSL to W2QF in Demarest direct at postcard rate, without using the A.R.R.L.



It only cost G6BR a "hapenny," or half a penny, evidently not by Air Mail, though. In those days, in England, there were multiple mail deliveries, as many as three. I'd say he got his money's worth.

Today, the U.S. postcard rate is 36 cents to destinations within the United States. The international rate for First Class letters and postcards is \$1.20. In the U.K., a letter or QSL to the U.S.A. costs 1.70 Pound (standard rate).

This has been a most unusual project, and one that required many man-hours to complete. I had to inspect more than 5,000 QSL cards, both from DX stations I have worked, and several hundred more "antique" cards in my collection. I then had to scan the stamps on them, name and save the files, then finally, copy and paste the images here. I hope you found the effort interesting, and if nothing else, informative.

Until next month,

73,

Fred W2AAB

[See associated NOTES on next page.]

## The Way We Were, continued.

### NOTES:

- [1] Wikipedia article: "Royal Union of Belgian Radio Amateurs," at:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal\\_Union\\_of\\_Belgian\\_Radio\\_Amateurs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Union_of_Belgian_Radio_Amateurs)
- [2] Ibid.
- [3] Ibid.
- [4] LABRE Website: <https://labre.org.br/>
- [5] L.C.R.A. Website: <https://lcra.org.co/>
- [6] "The History of Amateur Radio Operations in the Czech Republic," Cesky Radioklub, at:  
<https://www.crk.cz/ENG/SPOLKYE>
- [7] "Radio Club Dominicano's 94th Anniversary," Southgate Amateur Radio News, at:  
<http://www.southgatearc.org/news/2020/june/radio-club-dominicano-s-94th-anniversary.htm>
- [8] R.E.F. Website: <https://www.r-e-f.org/>
- [9] Vandt, C.D., "DASD-CQ: CQ Mitteilungen des Deutschen  
Amateur-Sende-und-Empfangs-Dienstes eV," at: [https://www.cdvandt.org/dasd-cq\\_1937.htm](https://www.cdvandt.org/dasd-cq_1937.htm)
- [10] "Hungary - M.R.A.O.E.," QSL Stamps Pages of EI2CL, at:  
<https://www.qsl.net/ei2cl/qslstamps/hungary.htm>
- [11] J.A.R.L. Website: <https://www.jarl.org/English/0-2b.htm>
- [12] F.M.R.E. Website: <https://fmre.mx/>
- [13] DeSoto, Clinton B., "International Amateur Radio Union – Member Societies," (Column),  
QST Magazine, December, 1931, p. 55
- [14] V.E.R.O.N. Website: <https://www.veron.nl/>
- [15] Wikipedia article: "Radio Club Paraguayo," at:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radio\\_Club\\_Paraguayo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radio_Club_Paraguayo)
- [16] "S.A.R.L. QSL Bureau," S.A.R.L. Website:  
[http://www.sarl.org.za/members/qsl\\_buro/qslburo.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/members/qsl_buro/qslburo.asp)
- [17] U.R.E. Website: <https://www.ure.es/>
- [18] Wikipedia article: "Swedish Society of Radio Amateurs," at:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swedish\\_Society\\_of\\_Radio\\_Amateurs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swedish_Society_of_Radio_Amateurs)
- [19] U.S.K.A. Website: <https://www.uska.ch/>
- [20] YV5ARV Blogspot: <http://yv5arv.blogspot.com/>
- [21] Radio Club Venezolano website: <http://www.radioclubvenezolano.org/>

## Around the Shack

Hal Kennedy N4GG/4

### DX is for the Deserving

Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD (sk) published the West Coast DX Bulletin (WCDXB) from 1968 to 1979.

Cass was quite a guy and if you were not around in the '60s and '70s I hope you have discovered the WCDXB more recently. All the issues are available on the web. This was pre-email. The WCDXB was mailed to your house. Imagine that! Bernie, W3UR, now publishes The Daily DX which covers the same DX info, DXpedition rumors and related matters such as what's up at the FCC. The Daily DX arrives by email. I remember hovering around my mail box in the '70s waiting for my weekly copy of the WCDXB via snail mail.

If you were a serious DXer you subscribed or read your friend's copy when he was through with it. Beyond the standard fare was Cass' humorous storytelling. Subscription to the WCDXB grew so large that Cass finally quit. It was a one-man operation and cranking out a thousand copies on a mimeograph machine, addressing them and mailing them was hard work.

As the WCDXB grew Cass' cast of characters evolved. I still laugh when reading the WCDXB and I have read the entire collection at least twice. I've also written in Cass' style at times, as have several others. Characters included the Old Timer, The QRPer, Red Eyed Louie and his cousin Sun Spot Louie and the Palos Verde Sun Dancers. The stories usually began with The QRPer being perplexed about something DX related (often why he couldn't work anything) and climbing the hill to seek the wisdom of The Old Timer. The Old Timer would answer the QRPer's question in a round-about way, in the form of a parable. Hugh was clever and an excellent writer.

The story was always at the back of the bulletin and subscribers invariably went straight to the back and read that first. The last words were always "DX IS." The WCDXB is where that started. The saying DX IS is still used by old time DXers. Another saying was "DX is for the deserving." The QRPer was admonished to drop bad habits and do the right thing. If he did he would be deserving of rare DX.

That brings me to one of my favorite QSOs. If you have been on the air for very long you probably have one or two of your own.

I've chased DX for a long time. An Honor Roll plaque went on my wall around 1975 so there is very little I need in the way of new DX. I did need Desecheo Island on 160 meters, however, when a DXpedition led by K4UEE and W0GJ went there in February 2009. At the time I was wintering in my tiny deed-restricted two story townhouse in Florida. I had an FT-857 and a power supply on-site and that was it. There were no antennas and little hope of putting any up. Getting on 160 from there wasn't even a fever dream.

But, Cass was right. DX is for the deserving. So I decided to try. Desecheo Island is 1,100 miles from Vero Beach, FL and the pileups were going to be ferocious, but what the heck.

First up was the antenna problem. The only option I could see was a rain gutter that ran along the building about 12 feet off the ground. That would have to do. I threw a piece of speaker wire from my second floor balcony to the gutter and jammed the shack end into the output SO-239 on the FT-857. A PL-259 was superfluous. The '857 doesn't have a built-in antenna tuner and I didn't have an outboard one, but I'm not sure it mattered. The SWR was probably 100:1 and beyond the range of any sane tuner anyway.

## **Around the Shack, continued**

There was no counterpoise. Radials are key to good performance on 160 and I had none. The rig itself and the power supply leads and the shield of the coax would have to do. This was looking grim.

I checked the antenna. As expected the rig folded back to protect itself. The output bar graph wasn't indicating any power going out. I might have been putting 1 watt into the rain gutter or maybe 1/10th of a watt. There was no way to tell. Despite having no ground for the antenna, the chassis didn't seem hot. When you are running one watt nothing seems hot. Cass' QRPer would have thrown in the towel at this point, but I'm the Old Timer up on the hill and I wasn't going to admonish myself for being completely unprepared. Desecheo at this point was the number six most wanted DXCC country in the world.

Next came noodling out how to actually get the contact. This is where experience came in handy. I was NOT going to break any pileups. I would be lucky to be heard at all. 1/10th of a watt on 160? 1,100 miles? No radials? A QSO was unlikely. I figured the last night of operation was going to be my best chance, around 3 AM, after the sun had risen in Europe and the big guns (and the little pistols) had all gotten their QSOs and were in bed. All the TV sets would be off in the building too. 3 AM was just before sunrise at Desecheo. Competition was going to be as good as it would get on the last night, although I expected there would still be a lot of callers.

Fortunately, the DXpedition was reporting their status via the web, so figuring out when the last night would be was easy. I set the alarm for 2:45 AM, got up, made coffee and fired up my wonderstation. The usual middle-of-the-night 160 sizzle was there. S6. Nuts. My signal wasn't going to be S6 one mile away. But DX is for the deserving so I plowed (crawled was more like it) ahead.

Whoo-hoo, there was K5D on CW! About one S unit above my noise level. At least I could hear them. They were actually arm chair copy. They announced they were working split and I went looking for the pileup. I couldn't find it.

Was I the only caller? It seemed impossible. I wasn't hearing well so I figured I just couldn't hear the other callers. That's not good. Timing the pileup is a necessity in this situation and I couldn't hear it.

Okay, okay, just call. As I once told a famous tester who was sitting doing email at PJ2T while waiting for 15 to open: "They won't hear you if you don't transmit." That's become an inside joke.

So I called. N4GG. Nothing. N4GG. Nothing. N4GG. Nothing. I did start to notice K5D wasn't working anyone, so he either had a high noise floor (bad!) or there were no callers (good!). N4GG. Nothing.

N4GG. Nothing. This went on for 15 minutes. The '857 was happily folded all the way back to under 1 watt. The rain gutter was now wet with dew – typical of Florida in the middle of the night. I was operating in the bedroom and the bed looked inviting. What was I doing up at 3 in the morning?

I implored the Palos Verde Sun Dancers to help me out. N4GG. Nothing. N4GG, K5D: N? Wow! The grey line was sweeping over Desecheo. I have great admiration for whoever was operating 160 meters at K5D that morning. He stuck with it for an hour or more not making any QSOs. Well, except for one.

N4GG. Nothing. N4GG, N4GG, N4GG. K5D: N? N4GG 4 times. K5D: N4? N4GG 4 times. Nothing. N4GG 4 times. K5D: N4G? Did I mention there are memorable QSOs in one's ham career?

N4GG 4 times. K5D: N4GG 599. I was in the log! With a 599 signal report too! Everybody is 599 of course – this is a DXpedition. A more accurate report would have been 119.



## Around the Shack, continued

You know the moral to this story. There are no excuses. If you want to work DX you can work DX. How badly do you want it? You might have to be a Red Eyed Louie at 3 AM. You might get stuck with no antenna and be QRPP. You might have to plan your best-chance moment like an Old Timer would. But you can do it. You can quit but you can't fail.

73 and RIP Cass. He was a DXer's DXer.

DX really is for the deserving. DX IS.

## SATELLITE Special Interest Group

We welcome all interested in all types of space / satellite communications. Some interests are AMSAT, ARISS, receiving weather maps from satellites, APRS via ISS, and much more.

The amateur radio in the Columbus Module of the ISS is back up and running after 6 weeks of silence. So now is a great time to get into space radio as most of you probably have all the equipment needed to send and receive APRS packets to the ISS. Article on how to do this is in this month's newsletter.



For those interested in joining all the Space Radio excitement! Contact Bob H.

[KD2BKD@optonline.net](mailto:KD2BKD@optonline.net) for information on the Satellite-SIG. Or just go to the club website [FairLawnARC.org](http://FairLawnARC.org) and use the "Join Special Interest Group(s)" link on left.

## The FLARC Activity Calendar: 2021

*"There's something always going on at FLARC!"*

<u>When</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Local Time</u>	<u>Where</u>
Monday	Near and Far Net	2000	Repeater
Tuesday	"Pop-Up Tuesdays"	1900	Zoom Room
Tuesday	DMR Net	1900	TalkGroup 310015
	Heath and Welfare		
Wednesday	"Umbrella" Net	1900	Repeater
Wednesday	ARES/RACES Net	2000	Repeater
Thursday	DMR Net*	1930	W2AKR or K2GCL DMR Repeater
Thursday	Tech Net**	2100	Repeater
Friday (First)	Business Meeting	1930	Zoom Room
Friday (Third)	"Kawfee Tawk" Programs	1930	Zoom Room
Weekends	POTA	TBD	TBD

\*With BCFMA

\*\* With BARA

Repeaters are W2NPT and NJ2BS unless noted

## **Ed - itorial :**

### **Déjà vu and Arabian Nights**

If you attended the March business meeting you saw at least three occurrences of the sense of camaraderie within the club.

In no order, in an hour's meeting we had Dave KD2MOB reminding the members of the anniversary of the creation of the Health and Welfare Net and creating an "event" to have all those who have participated to get together once again on March 10<sup>th</sup> and help remember. Time passes all too quickly and this was a poignant and important part in remembering the history of this club.

Noel's W2MSA enthusiasm for the club's first POTA SIG activation was noted not only by a summary of the event at Tallman State Park but also by a short PowerPoint to share the fun. What fun to see a group off and running and wanting to do more for a second activation for World Amateur Radio Day and put FLARC on the map.

And Van W2DLT taking it upon himself to put together a new "welcome pack" of information for hams who attend our VE sessions showed that in seeing such "little things" that improve the club we all become better.

Near the conclusion of the meeting, Jim W2JC noted that the status of the SIGs is now up to 140+ group participants. After being merely "suggestions" for two years, the (now) six SIG groups are cohesive and each have fun in their own distinct way, fill the gaps until the lockdown ends and leverages the size of the club. New SIGs such as Digital and Satellites broaden the base of the club, along with the more "traditional" amateur radio interests, and make the club potentially more attractive to newcomers.

I know I felt excited for the future of the club after the meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Many clubs just hold business meetings where the only purpose is to quickly end them. To me, the March meeting shows the vibrancy of the club and what truly makes FLARC "FLARC."

Ed WX2R

## Digital Voice Special Interest Group Update

FLARC DMR SIG     [DMR@FairLawnARC.groups.io](mailto:DMR@FairLawnARC.groups.io)

A Special Interest Group SIG for those interested in DMR (Digital Mobile Radio) communications and software.

DMR SIG is now **Digital Voice SIG** as all systems of digital voice communications can be talked about here. Many of these digital voice systems are connected to cross-talk between platforms.



We are still using DMR TalkGroup 310015 on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm to always be done before the NorthStar Digital Net, which is at 8:00pm on DMR TalkGroup 31630.

There has been some controversy with using DUDE-Star on Windows PC to access the BrandMeister DMR network. It seems like the administrators are not allowing this connection. I have checked and confirmed that DUDE-Star on Windows PC does not accept my connection, but DROID-Star on Android device does connect and transmits digital voice. Sorry for any frustrations people may have had trying to setup DUDE-Star, but it is out of our control.

For those interested in joining all the Digital Voice excitement, contact Bob H.

[KD2BKD@optonline.net](mailto:KD2BKD@optonline.net) for information on the Digital Voice SIG. Or just go to the club website [FairLawnARC.org](http://FairLawnARC.org) and use the "Join Special Interest Group(s)" link on left.

DMR Ham Radio.

**Digital mobile radio** (DMR) is an open digital mobile radio standard defined in the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) Standard TS 102 361 parts 1–4 and used in commercial products around the

## Radio Monitoring Special Interest Group Update

FLARC Monitoring SIG

[monitoring@FairLawnARC.groups.io](mailto:monitoring@FairLawnARC.groups.io)

A Special Interest Group SIG for those interested in SWL and other radio communications monitoring.

In my last few columns I have focused on the standard broadcast band and the HF frequencies up to 30MHz.

This time we are going to go much higher, from VHF into the microwaves, the frequencies which include 30MHz and above.

For the most part, propagation at VHF and above is restricted to line-of-sight with a few glaring exceptions that make things interesting.

### Tropo Ducting

The troposphere is the lowest part of earth's atmosphere. It is the area where observable weather occurs: rain, snow, clouds, storms etc. This is also the area where some interesting long distance propagation happens on VHF up through the microwaves.

In a normal troposphere (the lowest layer of the atmosphere), the temperature decreases with altitude and the humidity increases. In an 'inversion,' the opposite happens. A duct is formed at the boundary of the air masses. VHF and microwave signals become trapped in this duct and are bent around the curvature of earth - in some cases going far beyond line-of-sight.

A few extreme examples of this phenomenon are the west coast of North America to Hawaii duct which happens several times a year. It typically covers 2400 miles or more. There are, in addition, ducts which form across the gulf of Mexico from Florida to Texas.

In the northeast, the most common duct is along the coast from the Canadian maritime provinces to Florida.

Signal characteristic in a Tropo duct, in its most extreme form, are very strong signals with long fades which last over a period of hours.

Continued on page 8.

## APRS via ARRIS

• Automatic Packet Radio System via Amateur Radio International Space Station

By Bob Holstrom – KD2BKD

## APRS via ARISS

By Robert Holstrom, KD2BKD

Now that the ARISS (Amateur Radio International Space Station) system is up and running it is time to try to transmit an APRS packet up and see if it is received. This does not require that much equipment. Most amateur radio operators have all that is required.



APRS (Automatic Packet Radio System) is a digital system that communicates in real time. Typically, people think of APRS as a ground-based communications system. The frequency used for the ground-based system is 144.390MHz simplex. The data may include GPS location, weather information, text messages, and many other types of data. There is also APRS from the ISS and other satellites at frequency 145.825MHz and sometimes on 437.550MHz.

To make the contact, APRS signal needs to be encoded and decoded. I used an Android Phone and “APRSdroid” but many other programs can do this for different systems. A nice windows-based program specifically for APRS via ISS is “UISS” by ON6MU. Any APRS program can be used but will need to be configured for the ARISS digi path.

I used a GD77 HT radio with OpenGD77 firmware. Any 2-meter HT should work. Even a baofeng. I had to program in the APRS frequencies to use the VOX feature on GD77.



The cable between HT and smart phone I used is setup for a HT with “Kenwood” speaker mic connection. To find the cable search “BTECH APRS-K1” at Amazon. Cost is under \$25 at the time of this writing. The same cable should be able to be used with ios device if it has a physical audio connector. You can also make a cable like this.

The antenna used was the Elk 2M/440L5. Arrow 146/437-10 antenna is another great off the shelf choice. A homemade tape measure antenna used for hunting foxes would also work. Possibly even a rubber duck antenna could be used.

The setup of the APRS program is next. I will show “APRSdroid”, other should be similar.

Put in your “Call Sign”

For “SSID” I use “7: Handheld Radio”.

The “APRS digi path” should be “ARISS,WIDE2-1”. This path has the ARISS specified as the first connection and then will pass the signal to a max of 2 digipeaters to connect to the internet.

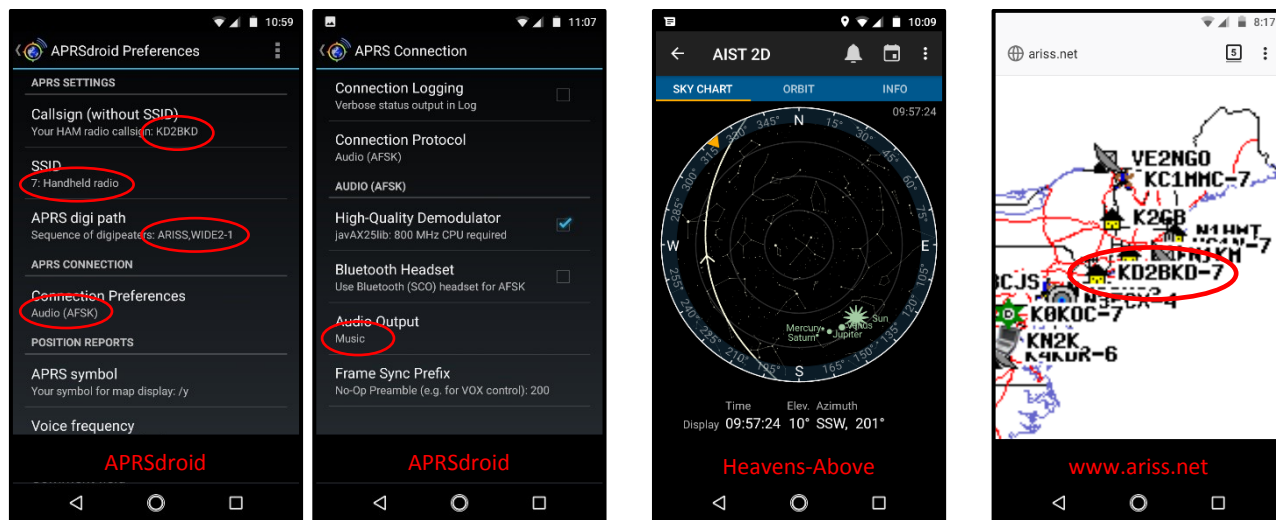
Connection Preference should be “Audio”,



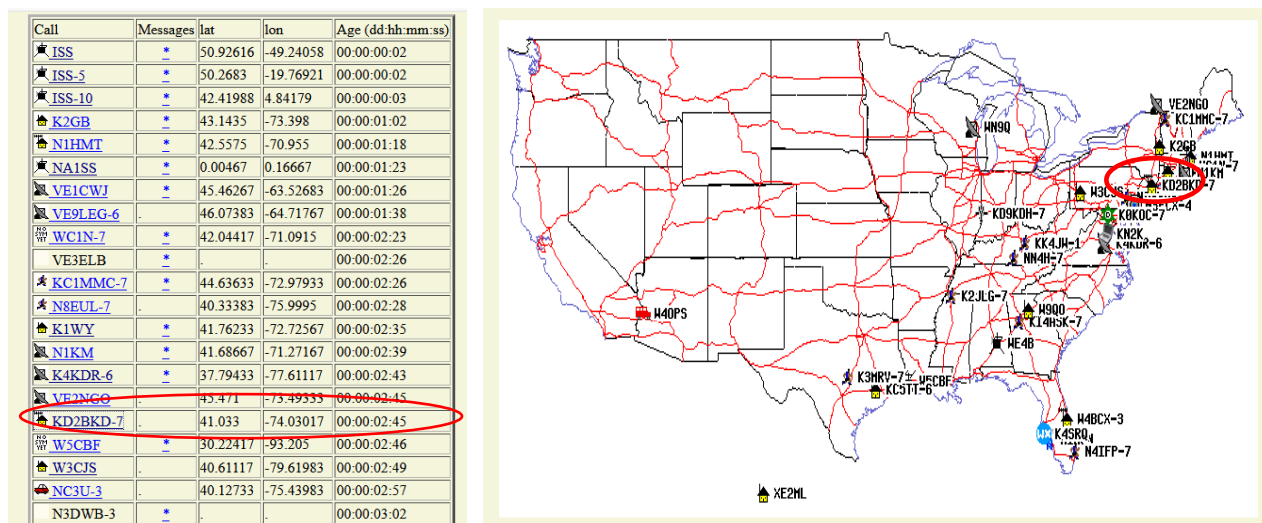
Under Audio I use the “Music” output.

On the radio the frequency is set to 145.825MHz and VOX is being used to active the PTT.

To track the ISS I use Heavens-Above program on a separate Android device.



I set APRSdroid to send packets every 1 minute and I could see the radio transmit light go on to verify. I did not receive any packets and was a bit disappointed. I went inside to check [www.ariss.net](http://www.ariss.net) on my smart phone & PC and see MY call sign “KD2BKD-7” on the “Amateur Radio Station heard via ISS” and on the map. Wow, I transmitted to the ISS and they received it!



The packet sent back to earth from the ARISS with my call sign on it from [www.ariss.net](http://www.ariss.net):

```
00:00:02:45 : VE2NGO]T5RX2V,NAISS*,qAO,WB2QGZ-10:~e9X1!|`/]Greetings from FN35 !!^
00:00:02:45 : N1HMT]CQ,NAISS*,qAO,WB2QGZ-10:H1 From N1HMT FN42
00:00:02:45 : KD2BKD-7]APDR15,NAISS*,WIDE2-1,qAS,N1BHX:=4101.98N/07401.81W/A=000170
00:00:02:46 : W5CBF]CQ,NAISS*,qAO,VE1CWJ-10:CQ ISS from EM30, LA
00:00:02:48 : W5CBF]CQ,NAISS*,qAO,WB2QGZ-10:=3013.45N\09312.30W-73' Via Satellite {UISS54}
```

The next day I received an email from KD2UZM from Rochester, NY that they received my APRS packet from the ARISS.

With this information I can send to get a QSL card from ARISS.



## INDEXA and The Background of DXpeditions

### Featured During March 26<sup>th</sup> *Kawfee Tawk*

“Where do we go next?” is the question often asked by die-hard DXers. On March 26th, Jose “Otis” Vincens NP4G and Bob Schenck N2OO, President of INDEXA, provided the background to the DX-pedition question many hams have asked.

Much like birders, many hams have a life list of geographic locations they would like to work. The International DX Association is an amateur radio organization dedicated to working DX and making DX possible. The INDEXA was incorporated as a non-profit organization and has been managed by volunteers without compensation since 1983. Over the years it has sponsored over 250 DX-peditions to rare and semi-rare countries. INDEXA exists to promote the future welfare of amateur radio and the DX community and has also recently created a humanitarian fund to assist in DX locations that have economic need.

The real question is “who pays for it?” and that’s where INDEXA comes in. The funding sources come primarily from equipment manufacturers, generous donations, and (even more generous) bequeaths. There are no discount fares to Bouvet Island so the costs for a week or two there can really add up. And there are no guarantees as bad weather, schedules, civil strife or even a pandemic or two that can wreak havoc with the best of plans; as we saw with the last attempt to go to Bouvet (test question—who administers the island?)

You might also be asking “who gets to go to these rather exotic locations?”. Otis and Bob noted that operators are screened by their reputation and actual contest/DX performance. Makes sense. Your score of 15,586 points in the CQ WW DX contest probably will not put you on their short list. But it will not take away from your fun of trying to work these “professional” amateurs through the pileups and uncertain band conditions.

A crowd of about 35 members and guests attended. The discussion was well prepared, quite informative and the questions were on point. There were interesting questions about government support regarding travel (you are on your own) and even going to North Korea (you are on your own). Digital increasingly is creeping into these operations as well so your computer will have claimed to work the Spratly Islands in the future on FT4/FT8; not you.

The DXpeditioner Marti Laine OH2BH once said “If you are a Believer, you will be Deserving”\*. The quote is from thirty years ago and struck a chord during this presentation. DX’ers are a fraternity within a fraternity and make the hobby more interesting.

\*Laine, Marti, “Where Do We Go Next?”, Long Beach, CA, KTE Publishing, 1991, p7.

- Reported by Ed WX2R



## **Health and Welfare Net Marks Anniversary**

Dave KD2MOB was net control marking the start of the club's Health and Welfare net on March 10<sup>th</sup>. With over 200 consecutive nights of operation, it was one of the first nets established in the country and noted by ham radio media. Along with Dave commemorating the event were WO2W Gene, N2AAM Dave, N2SU Bob, NJ2BK Bruce, KB2N Rick – (a first time check in), WX2R Ed, KC2TBD Ron, N2AXX Tom, N2OEL Noel, and KD2BKD Bob.

Thanks to Dave and Nomar NP4H for the many nights of hosting and to all who checked in for safety and friendship.

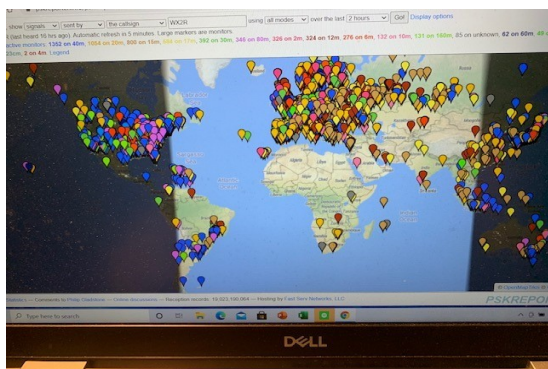
## **Pop Up Tuesday's Open Via Zoom**

The open night for social gathering on Zoom opened on March 9<sup>th</sup> with a dozen participants followed on the 16<sup>th</sup> with nine. This open night was at the request of members to get together without a formal program or agenda and it looks like it is off to a good start.

## **A Thanks to Van W2DLT**

The club thanks Van W2DLT for donating two hard hats to the club as well as seventeen CDs of CQ, QST and 73 magazines - going back as far as 1945.

## **Happy Spring!**



Day = Night: The Vernal Equinox

## **Radio Monitoring Special Interest Group Update, cont'd**

Back in the '80s, during one of the June VHF contests from a site in central New Jersey, I heard and worked a station on 2 meters in Kentucky - which was a solid signal for a good 8 hours or more, truly Tropo at it's best.

Tropo ducts for the most part happen in the summer, with some minor action in Spring and Fall. They can appear from 50MHz all the way into the microwaves.

William Hepburn maintains a webpage on Tropo which is very comprehensive, including a much more detailed explanation of ducting as well as predictions and maps, at

<https://www.dxinfocentre.com/propagation/tr-modes.htm>

I highly recommend this page as an all around monitoring resource. It is definitely worth your time.

## **Sporadic E**

This type of propagation allows you to hear distant signals from as low as the 15 meter amateur band up to, in rare cases, the 222MHz band. The typical range for single hop sporadic E is around 1500 miles or more.

Sporadic E is characterized by extremely strong signals that take deep fades over a period as short as 30 to 45 seconds.

The science behind this form of propagation is still poorly understood. What is known is that in the ionosphere "clouds" of charged particles form to the point that they will refract radio signals. These clouds move through the ionosphere, causing rapidly changing propagation.

On the FM broadcast band in the '70s I remember listening on a standard FM radio from my New Jersey location to FM stations from Mississippi and Florida.

During one of the VHF contests, I observed there

Continued on page 8.

## The “Fellmer” Is Born!

In recognition of members who have taken an unlikely physical “tumble” in the service of the club, John W2JLH has created (tongue-in-cheek) a special award in the form of a patch.

Dubbed “The Fellmer” (helping others with unintended accidental consequences), it will be “awarded” only on unlikely occasions. Our first “honorees” are Don N2PD, Steve KA2YRA, Ed WX2R and John W2JLH.



The FLARC “Fellmer Award”

## NORTH AMERICAN SSB SPRINT

November 2020

W2MSA  
Noel Pagan  
First Place New Jersey Low Power  
Score: 2482

Member  
1,200 Club  
Member

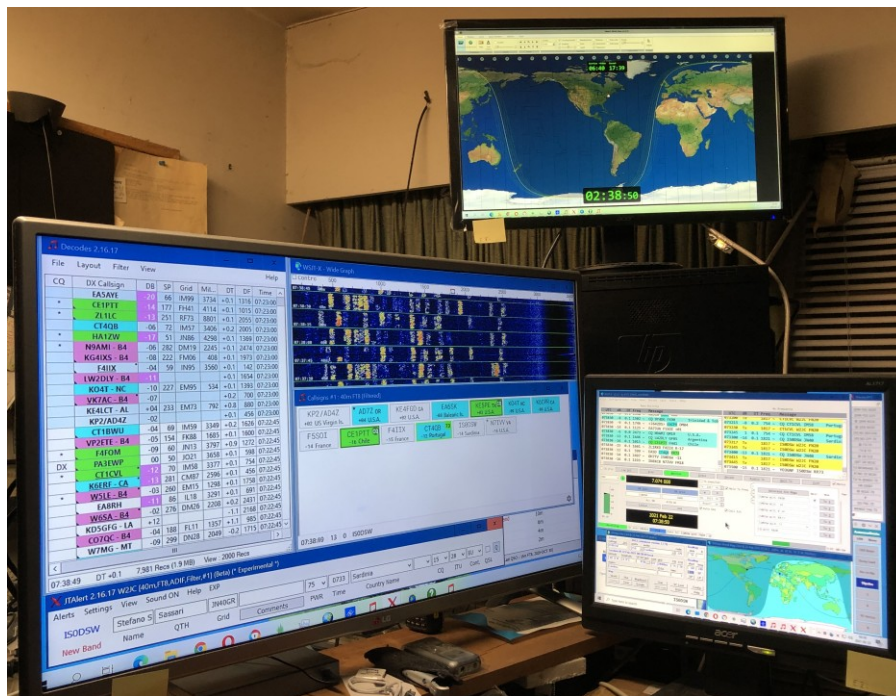
Tom Morrison, K5TM  
NA SSB Sprint Log Checker

ICOM

Bob Hayes, KW8N  
NA SSB Sprint Contest Manager

US Call Area 2

CALL	NAME	CLS	LOC	20m	40m	80m	#QSOs
=====	=====	===	===	===	===	===	=====
W2MSA	NOEL	L	NJ	0	73	0	73
NW2K	BOB	L	NY	3	54	1	58
WA2JQK	BOB	L	NY	0	26	31	57
W2ASC	TONY	L	NY	0	46	0	46
K2QO	MARK	L	NY	0	15	18	33
WA2CNV	LARRY	L	NY	0	2	0	2
KA2YRA	STEVE	Q	NY	0	2	0	2



Big screens are just super for running FT8/FT4 !!

Here's the layout one member uses for those modes - it's running WSJT-X along with JTAlert and some nifty utility programs to show the world maps (with gray line) and antenna rotor control.

The windows at the lower section of the lower right screen read the callsign being worked, look up the grid and calculates beam heading; then plots the DX location on the map and draws the short-path and long-path on the map.



## What Is It? – Answer To Last Month's Question

By: Fred Belghaus W2AAB



[https://www.etsy.com/listing/710947875/a-108-a-108-a108-ultrarare-nixie?ga\\_order=most\\_relevant&ga\\_search\\_type=all&ga\\_view\\_type=gallery&ga\\_search\\_query=vintage+electronic+parts&ref=sr\\_gallery-10-6](https://www.etsy.com/listing/710947875/a-108-a-108-a108-ultrarare-nixie?ga_order=most_relevant&ga_search_type=all&ga_view_type=gallery&ga_search_query=vintage+electronic+parts&ref=sr_gallery-10-6)

Congratulations to Bob Saltzman WB2ARK of Niskayuna, NY, who knew exactly what they are. These are called Dekatrons. They were manufactured in the former Soviet Union. They are “gas-transfer counting tubes,” similar to the better known “Nixie” tubes, but somewhat smaller. They provide a “digital” readout of numbers when driven, originally by flip-flop circuits in such equipment as voltmeters, etc. Most Dekatrons have 30 cathodes, but these only have ten. Bob adds in his email that they “do not actually contain a complete vacuum, but rather, neon gas for an orange glow, or argon gas... to glow a blue color.... They were also used in early calculators and computers.”

Bob collects tubes of this type, and says that these tubes and “Nixies” are often used today in digital clocks and similar projects built by electronic hobbyists. If you have any tubes like these, and you’d like to give them a good home, Bob might be interested in adding them to his collection. Send me an email if you’d like to be put in contact with Bob.

73,

Fred W2AAB

**What Is It? – April, 2021**

**By: Fred Belghaus W2AAB**



This should be an easy one. No hints, but it is the somewhat unusual form of a very common instrument. But...What IS it?

Let's see how much you can tell me about it.

73,

Fred W2AAB



## Upcoming License Classes

Club member Bill Kelly NB1LL has announced that he will be running license classes as part of his work with the Red Cross ARC. He is working out the schedule now but anticipating that he will have online classes on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and/or 3<sup>rd</sup> weeks of each of the following months:

April - Technician

May - General

June - Extra

Anyone interested in any of the classes can contact Bill using this email: NB1LL@ARRL.net

## Upcoming Technician License Class

I am holding an online Technician Cram class and have a lot of openings.

There will be an outdoor exam in a parking lot, people take exams in their cars.

The class will be Wednesday & Thursday, April 21-22, a review on Friday, April 23, and the exam on Saturday, April 24.

The class and review will run from 7pm to 10 pm each night.

The exam will be 12:30pm in Fairfield, near the Red Cross office.

If you know of anyone who would be interested, please have them contact me at NB1LL@ARRL.net.

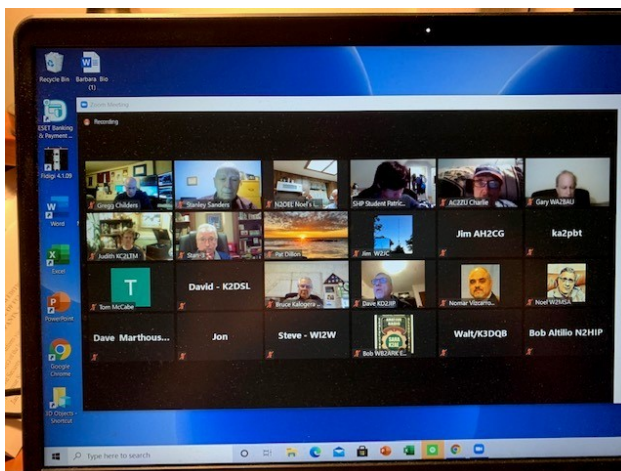
(That is a number one in NB1LL.)

Please pass this on.

I will be doing an online General class in May - will let you know later with dates.

Part of the crowd at the recent talk about Pico balloons by Seton Hall Prep on March 12<sup>th</sup>.

## A "hidden" POTA activation site ...



### Pop Up Tuesdays Are Back!

Beginning March 9<sup>th</sup> and then every Tuesday from 7-8PM will be an open Zoom meeting, to catch up with other members and maybe even friends and potential members.

The Zoom will be leaderless, so be prepared for an unscripted get-together session. Formal dress is optional.

Watch your emails for links and passwords. These sessions are at your request from the member survey. Let's take advantage of it until we can get back into the clubhouse again.



## FLARC PortableOps SIG

PortableOps@FairLawnARC.groups.io

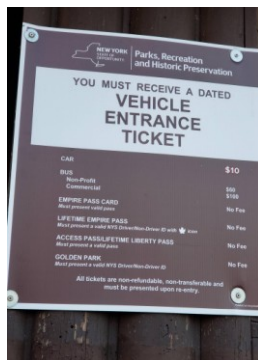
This is a Special Interest Group (SIG) for members interested in portable ham radio operation such as POTA, SOTA, IOTA, LOTA, etc.

The purpose of this SIG is to get outdoors and practice our operating skills from different places. We can share outing experiences, tips and work on our operating skills.

**Reported by Steve Rosman KA2YRA**

**Be sure to participate in the Portable Ops SIG group at <https://fairlawnarc.groups.io/g/PortableOps/messages> for the latest and greatest! Check out and contribute to the Files, Photos, and Messages folders.**

## April (no) Fooling !



April 1st brings many changes to our portable operating ... some good, some not so good, and some "whatever."

On the good news side, seasonal maintenance on many roads begins after the winter break, and there will be re-openings of many exciting roads in and into many parks. Local examples include Harriman State Park (K-2069) which has had closures on many of the main roads crossing the park and accessing some very wonderful sites. One of my favorites is the Perkins Memorial Tower atop Perkins Memorial Drive. It is a POTA "2-fer" with the Appalachian Trail (K-4556NY) passing right through the site. And many of the restrooms that had been closed will reopen on April 1st!

On the downside, many facilities start charging parking and entry fees on April 1st, and some start on Memorial Day. These fees can be as high as \$10 per day. Some economical options include a free NJ pass for residents aged 62 and above, as well as an annual pass. NY seniors can get free admission during the week, or can purchase an annual *Empire Pass*. See the following links for more details:

- <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/feeschedule.htm>
- <https://parks.ny.gov/admission/>



## FLARC Portable-Ops SIG Report, continued.

And in the “it is what it is” category is that while the snow and ice have (almost mostly) gone, it has been replaced by mud – and the (mostly) empty parks are getting filled with lots of people enjoying the great outdoors, fresh air, beautiful scenery, and much more. This makes us more diligent in not letting our portable ops interfere with others, and also operating in places and fashions that we are not being interfered with. And that interference can include RF noise (why do people leave their engines idling?), people noise (remember not everyone appreciates the sounds of ham radio, and headphones help block out the sounds of people yelling, laughing, and enjoying themselves), curious onlookers (yes that is a fishing pole, no I am not fishing — it is holding a ham radio antenna; no I’m not tracking aliens (either terrestrial or interplanetary) and yes, ham radio – we still do that!).

Every encounter with the public is an opportunity for us to be positive ambassadors for the hobby, and a chance to meet some great people.

No fooling.

### New Parks!!!

Super special kudos and thanks to Noel W2MSA for proposing and getting approval to have the **Palisades Interstate Park** (K-8319) added to the POTA list. Most of the park is in New Jersey, starting in Fort Lee; and there is a portion that extends into New York around Palisades.

See <https://www.njpalisades.org/maps.html> for a full range of maps covering the trails, roadways, scenic overlooks, and other highlights with the Park. A very nice spot, especially during the ARRL VHF Contests, is the **State Line Lookout** in Alpine (thanks to my roving mentor Bob Holstrom KD2BKD for that info). This has clear views at high elevation to the north, east, and south. In addition, there is no admission charged, though the Park tends to get VERY crowded – especially with POTA operators on the first few days it became active!

Since parking was limited, some folks met up at Memorial Park in Fair Lawn instead. The group included Noel W2MSA, Nomar NP4H, Steve Holly WI2W, David NK2Q, Gregg N2ECH, and more.

It is always exciting to activate an ATNO (All Time New One) and a unique park (first time). Great job by Noel W2MSA and Nomar NP4H for being listed among the first to activate K-8319 as of the April 1st report (no fooling!).

Remember that POTA eligible parks include national and state facilities, and there is an approval process for having new parks added. See [pota.us](http://pota.us) for maps and list of current sites, and [parksontheair.com](http://parksontheair.com) for FAQ’s and links to mapping coordinators



## **FLARC Portable-Ops SIG Report, continued.**

### **Portable Ops Expeditions**

The Portable Ops SIG group and friends made many excursions to local POTA sites this month to share best practices and make P2P (park to park) contacts. These were great opportunities to get together in a COVID safe environment - masked, with 2 meter social distancing (only hams and Europeans would get that reference).



It was also a chance for new and old [not based on age ;-)] friends and families to dust off their gear, try out new antennas and radios, and learn the pleasures and challenges of operating away from the home shack. For some, like me, my home environment limits my radio fun (HOA, RF noise, blocked visibility, etc) so the great outdoors is my favorite shack.

Parks included Tallman Mountain State Park (K-2149), Rockland Lake State Park (K-2132), and an exciting new location at Ringwood State Park (K-1630).

Thanks to a suggestion by Kevin Connell K2KCC, we set up at the Shepherd Lake Day Use/Recreation Area in the top parking lot overlooking the lake. This was an awesome site even though the restrooms were locked.

At another location in the park were Noel W2MSA, Steve W12W and his wife Donna, and our new friend Tim K2TJK who lives within walking distance of the park and was already operating POTA portable from the park. I had the honor of being his first POTA activation.

Check out the brief video at

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Z7F7gMVwL12dw7sj6>

of Noel rocking the airwaves while Kevin and I show off the scenery!

The Virginia QSO Party provided many contacts, and the POTA spotting page was a big help as always. We also shared a bunch of P2P [Park to Park] activations with each other on 2M, 70cM, and HF from within the park. We all got together after operating to compare notes and enjoy the smell of burgers cooking down the hill. Next time we BBQ!

More get togethers are being planned, especially for the **April 18th World Amateur Radio Day**. We welcome your input and suggestions.

## **FLARC Portable-Ops SIG Report, continued.**

### **Not seeing spots in front of your eyes?**

This past weekend I had the pleasure of going upstate to visit my grandsons in upstate New York. A fringe benefit was being able to sneak out a little bit to operate some of the parks in the area, especially on the drives up and back. Almost all of them were new for me (unique parks count a lot in the activator rankings) and several were ATNO (All Time New One's - great for bragging rights). However, as I soon found many were outside of cell coverage meaning no real-time spotting. In one park, that resulted in a failed activation since I could only get 5 QSO's. I didn't want to waste all that time and gas so I adjusted my procedure to accommodate this kind of scenario. Calling CQ and scanning the bands blindly was not very effective.

At one of the parks, I decided to break tradition and operate FT-8 digital. I was operating from a very quiet RF location at about 1,000 feet elevation. The DX was incredible, and I completed 12 QSO's Croatia and Poland, though only 10 were required to activate this ATNO.

At another park near my son's house late Sunday afternoon there was no cell coverage and the rain was starting to get heavy so I jumped into the CQ WPX Contest at the tail end. I gave out serial number 001 in the last hour or so while other stations were in the hundred's or thousand's!

And don't think this just happens way upstate in very rural areas. There are large parts of Harriman State Park right in our backyard without coverage. Or you may find yourself with a dead cell phone battery, or worse, you left the phone home.

Either way, you should develop options and workarounds. These include pre-spotting by posting your plans on the pota.us site under the Activations tab. This helps give a heads-up to others when and where you plan to operate. There is even some automation built in to connect the RBN (Reverse Beacon Network) to automatically spot CW and digital stations that are heard if they've posted their schedule.

Another effective method is to contact other POTA stations either by calling or responding to a CQ and asking them to post on your behalf. Be sure to return the favor(s) by re-spotting stations you've worked. It helps everyone.

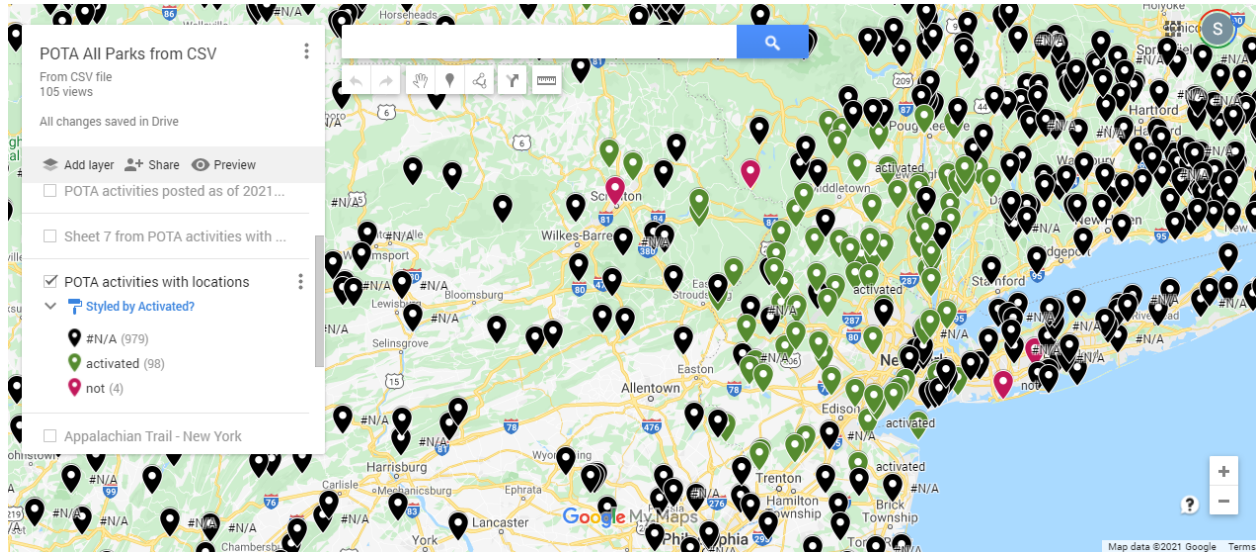
### **Some random P's of Portable Ops**

- **Practice practice practice** - learn, improve, share
- **Prepare** - Bring a paper map, extra pens and pencils, bandaids, extra everything.
- **Parks (not parking lots) on the Air** - get out of the car, walk a mile (more or less as you are able) at each stop. Enjoy the scenery. Smell the trees.
- **Personal safety** - be aware of your surroundings and hazards including muddy and slippery roads, steep drops off the side, ditches, ruts, rocks, car troubles when you're in the middle of nowhere without cell service, other people who may not be so friendly, critters and creatures, trips and falls, and so much more.

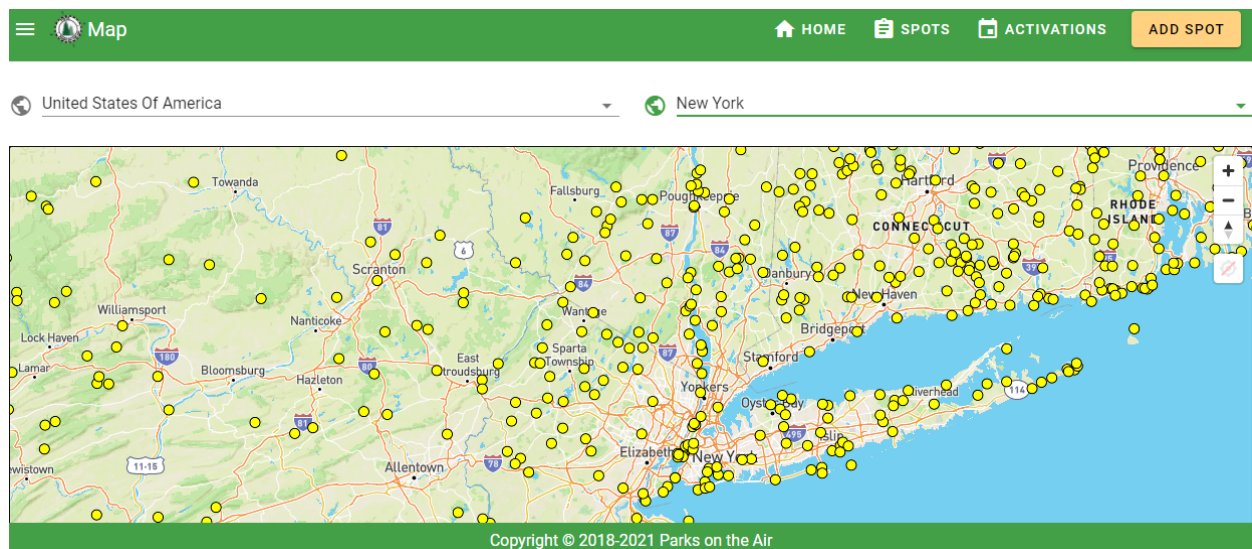


## FLARC Portable-Ops SIG Report, continued.

- **Plan** - plan for the best and the worst. Check and double check your routes and access points prior to getting on the road. One of my works in progress is to integrate the map of POTA sites with the database of activations so I can see at a glance which park(s) I've already activated, and even which are ATNO's. I can also overlay other trails for potential 2-fer's (see below). This may be in the works by the POTA team, though I find it a great help in the meantime.



My 'work in progress' map, showing my activated parks



Standard POTA map at [pota.us](https://pota.us)

- **Productivity and priority** - Having fun is #1 priority, though I always try to find new and ATNO sites. Working 2-fer's and even 3-fer's are a great way to increase productivity. These are locations where two or three POTA sites coincide. A very enjoyable example includes the Appalachian Trail (K-4556) which runs through Harriman State Park (K-2069), Bear Mountain (K-2010), Wawayanda State Park (K-1636), and many others.

See

<https://nps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=6298c848ba2a490588b7f6d25453e4e0>

for a detailed interactive map.



## FLARC Portable-Ops SIG Report, continued.

- **Protect the parks** - don't harm or harass the surroundings. Avoid wires in the trees since these can bruise the branches and leave litter behind, no stakes in the ground. Use self-supporting and free-standing solutions, bungee cords, rocks, leaning against tables or trees.
- **Personal hygiene** - hydration and sanitation, never pass the opportunity to use a clean restroom when you can find one.
- **Practice good stewardship** - parks are carry in carry out, don't litter. Go the extra step and pick up some of the trash you find, carry a garbage bag and pick-up grabber. Never understood why an empty can gets left behind when it weighs so much less than the full can carried in.
- **Penjoy penjoy** - the P is silent!

## Some of my favorite places



Someone must have stolen the sign ;-)



## Fair Lawn RACES/ARES Corner, cont.

operate within Bergen County and from time to time has training opportunities with Bergen County RACES. We will be the Net Control Operating Station for the BC-RACES Net on May 26, 2021 at 7:45 PM and are looking for a Net Control Operator and scribe for the BC-RACES Net.

Thank you to those who have taken part as the Net Control Station in the past. During the COVID-19 pandemic, our monthly briefings take place during the FLARC business meeting. Please join us for the next FL-RACES briefing.

The volunteer efforts of our members are very much appreciated. If you are interested in joining the Fair Lawn RACES, please contact me. Anyone who's a licensed amateur radio operator may join Fair Lawn RACES and there's no residential requirement.

For information regarding Bergen County RACES, please go to <http://www.bcnjraces.org>.

Please be safe and be well. Thank you very much.

73.

David KD2MOB,  
Emergency Coordinator FL-ARES and  
President FL-RACES



## From The President, continued.

weekly nets. Also, Karl, W2KBF is planning a Fox Hunt which may happen in April or May... We may also look into having a Portable Day as well.

And don't forget, June will bring us our first FLARC Hamfest. All of these events, and maybe some more will be discussed at our next business meeting this coming Friday, April 9th.

Hope to have you there with us. And... on April 16 don't miss our Kawfee Tawk - where we will be presenting on the Civil Air Patrol. A great topic and a great presentation, don't miss it.

Take care, stay safe and healthy and I'll "see ya" on the radio"...

73,

Nomar, NP4H

FLARC President

## Pandemic Theatre

Here's a link to a Paramount short from 1939 titled "Ham Radio—More Than A Hobby."

If we find others related to the hobby, we will look to run them. From Vimeo:

<https://vimeo.com/79070379>





## Theoretics Demystified

Let us talk about circuits and circuitry.

The inspiration for this column came from Judith KC2LTM!

Things were very crude back in the day, meaning the 1800s and into the early 1900s. Electrical circuits were laid out on wooden boards and sometimes were actually done on wooden cutting or bread boards – and thus the term ‘breadboarding’ a circuit came into use.

Before radio experimentation there were simple electrical circuits that were laid out on a board and that provided the electrical workings and at the same time gave a visual or graphic representation of what was going on. It also provided a way to find and correct errors in the wiring or connections.

Just think of the simple layout of a battery, a switch, and a little light bulb that you may have seen as a student in science class. There were the components themselves and the interconnecting wiring to put it all together.

When the early experiments in radio came about, the same method of wiring was generally used. The components were large and were considered as individual units as they were very simple building blocks that were made to function together. In many cases the components were just laid out on a table and wired together using wiring that was either laid out with stiff wire running neatly with right angle turns. Early on not much attention was paid to the effect of wiring layout as there was very little knowledge of the effects of wiring design on the performance in RF circuitry.

As with any experimental endeavor, most knowledge is gained empirically, then the engineering and the math or explanation follows. It is reverse engineering in the experimental development stage, but I digress!

As development of radio progressed, it became evident that layout and wiring of the components was critical to the desired performance of the circuitry. This became especially critical as the circuitry became more sophisticated. This meant

## Theoretics Demystified, continued

that the way to lay out components became more standardized and then as the radio industry took hold, the desire to make smaller and more affordable radios became the norm.

This meant that from the breadboard designs there was a progression to a metal chassis design. This was and is an open box design, that means a metal box with the bottom open and components mounted on top or underneath as design dictated. The parts are then mechanically mounted with the smaller parts soldered interconnectedly between other major parts underneath.

Tubes, IF cans, tuning capacitors and other transformers are mounted on top with their wires secured to terminal strips or to tube sockets.

The next step was to make smaller the parts and spacing of them. Up to now we have been assuming tube equipment with soldered in smaller parts. As we know now, every part has a resistance, capacitance and inductive value. This is not really a problem at lower frequencies but becomes a factor at higher frequencies. The next step was solid state transistorized circuits which further shrunk size and spacing of parts in electronic devices. This tightened up design specs and enhanced performance of equipment.

As higher frequencies were involved in radio design, size and layout became more critical. The next step was integrated circuits which in a large part, nullified some of the resistance, inductance, capacitance factors in radio design, especially at RF frequencies.

Next came pc boards where all of the parts were laid out on a thin wafer of nonconductive material generally the thickness of cardboard and where the interconnecting wiring is copper traces connecting the components mounted on the reverse side. Then came double sided boards with components on both sides, first discrete component parts with wires or leads soldered to

Continued on page 8.

**Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club  
to Help Celebrate  
*World Amateur Radio Day*  
on April 18<sup>th</sup> — Highlighting  
the Value of Communication  
Amid Isolation**

On the day that commemorates the anniversary of the founding of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) in Paris in 1925. The Fair Lawn (NJ) Amateur Radio Club (FLARC) will help celebrate the April 18<sup>th</sup> event with members operating a series of stations from their homes to demonstrate amateur radio and its value by communicating with fellow "hams" around the world.

This year's theme is *"Amateur Radio: Home but Never Alone"*. As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to force global isolation, the amateur radio community has responded positively with activities such as "Wellness Nets" to keep amateurs in touch and check on those who may be higher risk or elderly, special "Stay Safe" special event stations across the globe, and generally higher levels of amateur activity.

Club members are asked to "get on the air" using their call sign but mentioning World Amateur Radio Day and FLARC in their QSO's. If we get a number of volunteers, we can set up a schedule to make sure the club is operating the entire 24 hours of WARD. While any mode is acceptable, we might suggest using voice to help "talk up" WARD. The POTA SIG is already planning to activate and is an opportunity for you to get involved.

This is the third year that FLARC will be participating in the event which is run by the IARU with stations operating around the world – including FLARC!



**Theoretics Demystified, continued**

the underside of the printed circuit board, then there were developed surface mount devices where there are no wires but where each device has solder tabs or edges that are directly soldered to the board surface. They are mounted on one or both sides of the board.

As parts and devices became smaller, it became normal to stack several layers of pc boards in order to further shrink device size! This led to taking common devices and further shrinking them to microscopic size on a large scale integrated circuit. They further eliminated the circuits' resistance, capacitance, inductance influences.

What once filled a table with parts, a chassis with large parts, now can be on a very small 'chip.' An oscilloscope that once had to be mounted on a large cart is now a small pocket sized unit with better performance than the units of old and with much less power consumption and greater performance.

That ham radio you want to buy with the panadaptor, scope, and touch screen is now possible with all of the advances related above. Aside from that, much of the ham radio modes we now enjoy would be impossible without all the above advances.

A newer radio can contain millions of transistor junctions! A touch screen contains millions of transistor junctions that you cannot see, liquid crystal cells and the deces to sense your touch to a specific spot, (like the iphone the I am using to write this).

So much we take for granted that has taken over a century to develop.

73!

Fred Wawra W2ABE



## In A Nutshell

Finally the snow is gone as we all are looking forward to warmer weather. Time to get out in the sun to get that vitamin D!

Time to check and fix up your antenna, grounding and connectors. Maybe you can even put up a new antenna and get on a different band!

Things are still up in the air about social activities, but you can get on the air, on the nets and TALK to other hams, socialize without a mask and save the gas money you would have spent going visiting, for a new accessory for your shack!

Above all safety first!! Especially in the little things where we all can tend to forget. Ham radio is a hobby and should be fun. Life has been difficult the last year, so get on the air and talk to others and enjoy the hobby. Hopefully things will get back to normal sooner than later.

73!

Fred Wawra, W2ABE

## Radio Monitoring

### Special Interest Group Update, cont'd

was some short hop E to New Brunswick and Newfoundland Canada on 50MHz. The signals were in for about a half hour then they totally disappeared like mother nature threw a magic switch. Almost immediately after that signals from North Carolina and Tennessee came through.

Sporadic E happens most frequently in June and July with a minor event in December.

If you hear anything in your monitoring activities on either of these modes, post your information in the FLARC Monitoring SIG.

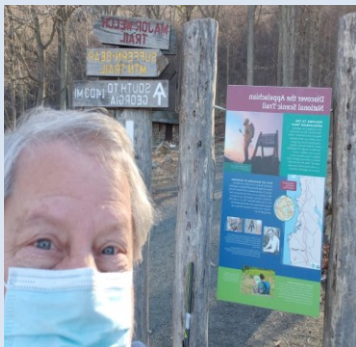
If you are not yet a member of this SIG, just send an email to

[monitoring+subscribe@FairLawnARC.groups.io](mailto:monitoring+subscribe@FairLawnARC.groups.io)

73 and good DX.

de N2AAM

## More POTA Photos ...

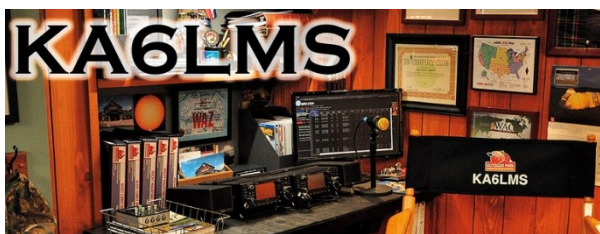


## April 2021

### FLARC Business Meeting

Because the April business meeting was postponed due to the holiday, and to assure the April issue of The Resonator was published in a timely manner, the minutes of the April 2021 FLARC Business Meeting will be emailed to members following the meeting, and will be published in the May issue of The Resonator - along with the May minutes.





## Last Man Standing Special Event Station

By Robert Holstrom, KD2BKD

I am just starting to get into HF and thought it would be fun to try the “Last Man Standing” special radio event as I enjoy watching the show so much. There is also less pressure than a contest.

The LMS event was a weeklong event run by NO2C, Lou Maggio from “The Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club” and his wife K2RYD, Salli. I hope to participate in their “12 Days of Christmas” special event in December. There are many other special events throughout the year like the “13 Colonies” [www.13colonies.us](http://www.13colonies.us) around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

I started 3 day late with my 1<sup>st</sup> QSO for LMS on Thursday evening getting the bonus station K6L from Maryland on 80 meters. I then found another K6L on 80 meters from NY who was Salli, K2RYD. Not knowing I should have asked her to log me for KA2LMS/2. From there I was hooked. Nothing more for that evening as I did not really know what I was doing and just got lucky.

The next day, Friday I was working from home in the morning and took a break at about 10:00am our time to find KA6LMS/3 again from Maryland on 80 meters. I found “DxSumit.fi” online to track were other people found LMS stations which was very helpful. That evening I got right back on the radio to find K6M bonus station and KA6LMS/9 both in Indiana on 40 meters.

Saturday morning, I found KA6LMS/4 on 20 meters in Alabama, KA6LMS/VE3 on 40 meters FT8 from Canada. That afternoon was bonus station W6S on 20 meters from Alabama. Now I was starting to get used to the frequencies and distances at different times of day.

Sunday was a rainy day, so I have lots of time to play LMS radio. Sunday there were many pileups and getting through was very difficult. I heard KA6LMS/0 in Colorado who was Amanda from “Ham Nation” with a pileup. I heard her say she is quitting as she logged 1000 contacts. I also heard KA2LMS/5, Jason from “Ham Radio 2.0”, from Texas. I did not get through to either of these stations. I did get through to bonus station W6L from Wisconsin and KA6LMS/8 from Ohio, both on 40 meters.

Monday was the last day for the event stations. In the morning I took a break from working at home and dxsummit.fi showed KA6LMS/1 on FT8. I worked that station on 40 meters.

135830	12	0.3	446 ~	CQ KA6LMS/1
135845	Tx		446 ~	<KA6LMS/1> KD2BKD FN21
135900	14	0.2	446 ~	KD2BKD <KA6LMS/1> +08
135915	Tx		446 ~	<KA6LMS/1> KD2BKD R+14
135930	13	0.3	446 ~	<KD2BKD> KA6LMS/1 RR73
135945	Tx		446 ~	KA6LMS/1 <KD2BKD> 73
140000	13	0.2	446 ~	CQ KA6LMS/1

WM6 was also seen on dxsummit.fi and I worked them on 20 meters from Nebraska. This was a hard signal for them to hear me, but they were very patient. Lunch time I played radio a bit and found KA6LMS/5 on 20 meters from East Texas. After work I had only until 7:59 before the end. At 6:00 I worked the last bonus station K6S on 40 meters and finally worked KA6LMS/0 Amanda from “Ham Nation” on 20 meters from Colorado.

I worked all 6 bonus stations. The stations I did miss was is sections, /2, /6, /7, /VE7, and /On-S.

## The Brotherhood of 23

**By: Hiram Percy Abiff**

Many people are wary of secret societies, chiefly because of their secrecy, which is always suspect by the uninitiated. Wild rumors have often been spread about them, ranging from alleged political intrigues to conspiring to force cities and towns to fluoridate their water supplies. That last one was a favorite bugaboo of the late General Jack D. Ripper.

But though these rumors are chiefly groundless and often quite silly, there was a secret society in our local area that was truly notorious for its activities, once its cover was blown, and the members suitably exposed and embarrassed, although only to a small community of persons.

The name of this group was The Brotherhood of 23, an odd name, certainly, suggesting that its membership was limited to 23 miscreants. There were whispers among locals as to what their secret activities might be, but generally, it was assumed that they were an organization operating outside the law, engaged in the most insidious of crimes. I only learned of their existence quite accidentally — by overhearing a conversation at an after-hours watering hole with a seedy reputation.

For a long time, no further information about them could be discovered, until one former member and friend of mine made a serious mistake — he invited me to become a member. Of course, my curiosity was aroused by this, thinking that I might discover their secret activities, and, if they were guilty of any criminal behavior, I would think it my duty to contact the police.

I shall never forget the rainy night on which I was picked up in a black sedan, blindfolded, and conveyed to a secret location, somewhere in our county. Naturally, I was uneasy about this, and asked my “captors” to explain what they had in mind. I was given assurances that they meant me no harm, and that upon initiation, I would find the experience “most enlightening.”

Calmed somewhat by these assurances, I remained silent until we had reached our destination. I was then conducted up a long walkway, then up six steps leading to a private residence, then down twelve more steps to a sort of basement area. By now, my heart was racing, out of confusion, and a growing sense of foreboding. I didn’t know where I was, and I did not recognize any of the voices of those who had so far spoken.

Then, a voice asked my name, which I gave, haltingly. Several members murmured among themselves, and this, too, I found a bit unnerving. The only voice I thought I recognized was that of the member who had sponsored me.

The voice then asked me my age, place of birth, address and telephone number.

I was then asked whether or not I was suffering from any illnesses, physical or mental, and whether I had any deformities. Each time, I answered in the negative.

“You have been recommended to us by our Brother Vice-Deacon because of your known honesty and fair dealing, as well as your ability to keep confidences. Is there any reason for us to doubt your possession of these qualities?” I said no.

“Then we shall begin the initiation,” said the voice. I was still blindfolded, and I trembled, not knowing what to expect.

I cannot reveal the details of the initiatory process itself, having sworn an oath of secrecy about them. After the initiation process, I was told where I was, and the names of each member.

“But since you cannot see their faces, Brother, you will never know which name and which voice belongs to which face. Henceforth, you shall know them only by the names they have adopted for the Work of our order.”

The blindfold was removed, and I was led through a passageway whose entrance was flanked by a pair of columns. Each column was given a name that I was instructed held mystical significance. Their initials were “J” and “B.”

The passageway communicated with an inner room, called the Sanctum Sanctorum, and was lit only by a pair of torches that were ignited by one of the Brothers, whose title was Keeper of the Flame. As my eyes adjusted to the torchlight, I saw a large desk, upon which was a small, home-built unit that looked like a transceiver. On a shelf above the desk was a larger unit, which I deduced was a high power RF amplifier. Through a glass window on this large unit I could see two large final tubes. They were 4-1000s!

The Master sat at the desk and turned on the transceiver, then the large amplifier. Just now, I noticed a rotator indicator box on top of the transceiver, for an antenna array that I was told was eight vertical elements, wide spaced for maximum gain. After a suitable warm-up period, voices emerged from the speaker. I could not believe my ears.

Well, here’s the Secret of Secrets. Each Brother called themselves by a sort of “nickname.” The Master of the Society called himself “Kingpin;” the Deacon called himself “Junior;” the Sub-Deacon, “Little Man;” Keeper of the Flame, “Fireman,” and my sponsor and friend, the Vice Sub-Deacon, “Pipsqueak.” I chose the name “Peddler,” since I was working as a salesman in those days. There were no other Brothers present, and, indeed there were no other members at all. There were only six of us.

Who were these Brothers in life outside the Order? They were all big time DXers, and all but one were on the DXCC Honor Roll. I was the exception, but with nearly enough to qualify. My friend, the Vice Sub-Deacon, thought I’d be a good prospect, and that I might enjoy the “Work” of the Order.



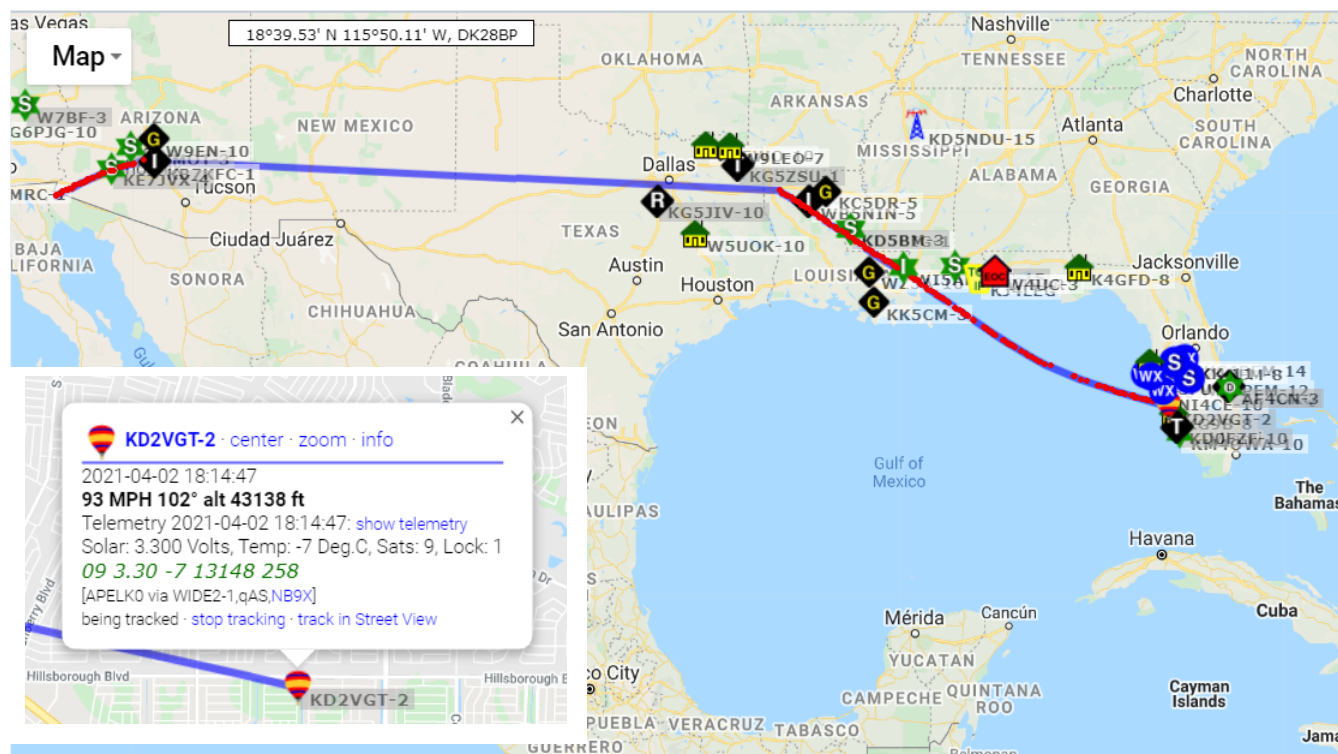
The transceiver was a homemade CB rig, and each of the Brothers had a chance to “cut up” on the Citizens’ Band, using their adopted CB “handle.” The columns with the initials “J” and “B” stood for “Jammers” and “Breakers,” the two arch enemies of the Order, through which one must pass in order to enter the Sanctum Sanctorum.

The Brotherhood of 23 ceased to exist many years ago. Why 23, you ask? Well, in those days, there were only 23 CB channels. What brought the Brotherhood into non-existence? Word was out that the F.C.C. was in town, and rather than risk exposure, and the shame associated with big time DX hams secretly goofing on CB, the order was dissolved, and the transceiver disassembled, and converted into a 2 meter FM rig. The Master converted the big amplifier to AB1 Class and kept it for himself for use on 20 meter SSB. Ultimately, word of the order got out anyway, because one of us spilled the beans. I plead guilty.

73,

Hiram P. Abiff

Former Assistant Vice Sub-Deacon, Brotherhood of 23



<https://aprs.fi/#!mt=roadmap&z=5&call=a%2FKD2VGT-2&timerange=86400&tail=86400>

Have you been following the upper altitude balloon launched by the Seton Hall Prep STEM students? You can use the URL shown above to check up on it now and then. How many times has it gone around the world so far? We at *The Resonator* have lost count!! But the last time we checked before this it was south of Tokyo. It seems to be travelling consistently at an altitude of about 43,000 feet ASL (Above Sea Level) but the speed varies depending on the upper air wind speeds. See the insert above for more technical info. Thanks again to the Seton Hall Prep crew for their recent **Kawfee Tawk**.